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National**Prime Minister Modi unveiled a 77-foot statue of Lord Ram in Goa.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 77-foot bronze statue of Lord Rama and the Ramayana Theme Park at Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Canacona, Goa, on November 28, 2025, during its 550th anniversary celebrations.

He also released a commemorative postal stamp and ₹550 coin, honoring the Math's legacy in Dvaita Vedanta and Gowd Saraswat Brahmin traditions since 1475.

Earlier in Udupi, Modi joined a massive Bhagavad Gita recitation by over 100,000 participants and dedicated temple enhancements, blending heritage with modern cultural hubs.

India Launches Operation Sagar Bandhu for Cyclone Relief

India initiated Operation Sagar Bandhu to aid Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah caused over 123 deaths, 130 missing, and massive floods displacing 44,000 in late November 2025. INS Vikrant and INS Udaygiri delivered initial relief to Colombo, followed by IAF C-130J and IL-76 airlifting 21+ tonnes of food, medicines, tents, blankets, hygiene kits, plus 80 NDRF personnel and equipment. Announced by EAM Jaishankar, this embodies Neighbourhood First and Vision MAHASAGAR amid severe infrastructure damage.

India Sends 73 Tonnes Medicines Supporting Afghanistan Healthcare

India reaffirmed its humanitarian support for Afghanistan by delivering 73 tonnes of life-saving medicines, vaccines, and essential supplements to Kabul in 2025. This shipment is among India's largest recent aid deliveries, aiming to address urgent healthcare needs amid Afghanistan's challenges. The aid includes medicines for various conditions, vaccines for disease prevention, and nutritional supplements

to tackle malnutrition. India's continued support highlights its longstanding humanitarian commitment, regional diplomacy, and efforts to strengthen people-to-people ties with Afghanistan.

India's Livestock Sector Growth Hits Major Milestones

The Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025 report shows India's livestock production growing significantly in 2024–25. Milk production reached 247.87 million tonnes, a 3.58% rise, with per capita daily availability at 485 grams. Egg production rose by 4.44% to 149.11 billion, with 106 eggs per capita annually. Meat production grew 2.46% to 10.5 million tonnes, led by poultry, while wool output increased 2.63% to 34.57 million kg, with Rajasthan leading. Key states dominate these sectors, essential for nutrition, employment, and rural income.

GIFT City Targets IP Hub Status Like Guernsey

GIFT City in Gujarat seeks to emerge as India's premier onshore intellectual property holding centre, mirroring Guernsey's model by attracting domestic and global firms to register patents, trademarks, and copyrights locally. Regulated by IFSCA, an expert committee is crafting a competitive IP framework leveraging the IFSC's tax incentives, single-window clearances, and financial services since 2015. This aims to reverse Indian IP outflows abroad, enabling royalty financing, licensing, and tech transfers while fostering innovation ecosystems compliant with global standards.

ICAI Hosts World's Largest Single-Day Career Guidance Event

The ICAI on 28 November 2025 organised its "Career in Accounting and Finance for Youth (CAFY 4.0) & Super Mega Career Counselling Programme" in Mumbai and secured a new record. Over 7,400 students, teachers and principals attended, with 6,166 students officially counted — marking the largest single-day career-advice lesson registered globally. The session provided structured guidance to students from

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grade six to graduation, covering streams like humanities, science, commerce, arts and digital domains. It explained career- versus job-based choices, CA course details, scholarship opportunities and global career pathways.

Assam Approves New Anti-Polygamy Law Marking Major Reform In Marriage Rules

On 27 November 2025, the state assembly of Assam passed the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, criminalizing polygamous marriages across most of the state. The law imposes up to seven years imprisonment on individuals entering a second marriage while a prior one is valid. Concealing an existing marriage before contracting another may attract up to ten years behind bars. The legislation also penalises those solemnising or abetting such unions, and offers compensation rights to women affected by polygamous marriages.

India Re-Elected to UNESCO Executive Board 2025-29

India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for the 2025–2029 term, underscoring its leadership role in education, culture, science, and communication. This re-election reflects strong global confidence in India's commitment to UNESCO's goals and its vision of inclusive, human-centric development. As a member of the 58-nation board, India will help oversee UNESCO's work programmes and policies, promoting digital learning, cultural preservation, scientific collaboration, and media freedom in alignment with sustainable development goals.

India's Population to Stabilise Near 1.8 Billion by 2080

India's population is projected to stabilise around 1.8 to 1.9 billion by 2080, driven by a sharp decline in total fertility rate (TFR), which fell from 3.5 in 2000 to 1.9 today. This demographic transition is propelled by rising female literacy, greater access to contraception, delayed marriages, and economic development. States like Kerala and West Bengal already report TFRs

replacement level. While population stabilisation offers benefits, challenges like an aging population and workforce shortages require attention.

PM Modi Leads 60th DGP-IGP Conference on Security

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 60th All India DGP–IGP Conference 2025 in Raipur, focusing on strengthening India's internal security under the theme "Viksit Bharat, Surakshit Bharat." Key discussions included the post-Naxal Bastar 2.0 roadmap, forensic and tech-enabled policing, women's safety, and a long-term vision for policing in India by 2047. The conference brought together top police officials and intelligence agencies to collaborate on innovations, inter-agency coordination, and citizen-focused security solutions to address evolving national threats.

Virat Kohli Breaks Record With 52nd ODI Century

Virat Kohli surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record by scoring his 52nd ODI century during the first ODI against South Africa in Ranchi on November 30, 2025. This makes Kohli the male cricketer with the most centuries in a single format, cementing his legacy as one of the greatest batsmen. He also set a record for the most centuries against South Africa in ODIs with six. Kohli's total international centuries stand at 83, second only to Tendulkar's 100, highlighting his remarkable consistency and skill over a long career.

India to Chair International IDEA in 2026, Marking Democracy Leadership

India will chair the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) in 2026, highlighting 30 years of global democracy support since IDEA's inception in 1995. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar will assume the Chairship on December 3, 2025, in Stockholm. As the world's largest democracy with nearly 1 billion voters, India's leadership will promote free, fair elections, democratic values, and institutional resilience worldwide. India's chairship will

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strengthen global democratic dialogue, capacity building for election management bodies, and technology-led electoral reforms.

NIRDC Launches InDApp to Simplify MSME Approvals Nationwide

The National Industries Research and Development Council (NIRDC) launched InDApp, a unified digital platform designed to simplify government approvals and expand business opportunities for Indian MSMEs. Supported by multiple ministries, the platform offers real-time market data, access to sector-specific schemes, financial support guidance, and tools for collaboration and networking. InDApp combines physical outreach with digital services, helping entrepreneurs efficiently manage their business lifecycle, promoting transparency, inclusiveness, and facilitating national and global growth.

IGI Airport has become the first airport in India to achieve water-positive status

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has become India's first water-positive airport among those handling over 40 million passengers yearly. It now replenishes more water than it consumes through 625 rainwater harvesting units, two reservoirs with a 9-million-litre capacity, and a 16.6 MLD zero-liquid-discharge STP. These systems enable full wastewater recycling and efficient reuse for cooling, irrigation and sanitation. Recognised under the NITI Aayog-CII framework, IGI's achievement strengthens its sustainability goals and advances its journey toward becoming a net-zero airport.

India has introduced the GIRG initiative to enhance its global performance and improve international rankings

The government has launched a major initiative under the Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG) platform to compare India's performance across 26 international indices. These indicators span four themes—economy, development, governance, and

industry—with each ministry responsible for data accuracy and methodological review. NITI Aayog's DMEO will coordinate the process. The effort includes examining contentious rankings like the Democracy Index. Overall, the initiative aims to identify gaps, improve policies, and strengthen India's global standing through data-driven reforms.

Tamil Nadu has expanded its GI portfolio by adding five new products, raising the total count to 74

Five traditional products from Tamil Nadu—Woraiyur cotton sari, Kavindapadi nattu sakkarai, Namakkal soapstone cookware, Thooyamalli rice, and Ambasamudram choppu saman—have received the GI tag, raising the State's total to 74. The recognition protects local craftsmanship, enhances market value, and supports rural livelihoods. These items reflect Tamil Nadu's strong textile, agricultural, and artisanal heritage. The applications were filed by IPR attorney P. Sanjai Gandhi, reinforcing legal protection and promoting wider recognition of the State's cultural identity.

RBI has continued to classify SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs

RBI has confirmed that SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank will remain India's Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2025, reflecting their critical role in financial stability. These banks must maintain higher CET1 capital buffers: SBI (0.80%), HDFC Bank (0.40%), and ICICI Bank (0.20%). The D-SIB framework, introduced in 2014 and updated in 2023, uses systemic-importance scores to assign buckets. This classification ensures stronger shock-absorption capacity and aligns with global G-SIB regulations for foreign banks.

SEBI has introduced SWAGAT-FI to make it easier for low-risk foreign investors

SEBI has introduced SWAGAT-FI, a unified single-window system to ease market entry for low-risk foreign investors, effective June 1, 2026. The

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framework merges FPI and FVCI registrations, offers 10-year validity, and reduces compliance burdens for entities like sovereign funds, pension funds, and central banks. It also clarifies IFSC rules by allowing retail schemes with limited resident participation to register as FPIs. With trusted investors already holding over 70% of FPI assets, SWAGAT-FI aims to boost long-term capital inflows and market accessibility.

Meghalaya has organised the Regional AI Impact Conference 2025 in Shillong

The Regional AI Impact Conference 2025 held in Shillong on 3 December highlighted India's push to democratize AI under the IndiaAI Mission, which has invested Rs. 10,300 crore and deployed 38,000 GPUs nationwide. The government announced new AI and data labs in Shillong and Tura, aiming to decentralize infrastructure and expand opportunities in the Northeast. With plans to train 1 million people in AI skills, the initiative focuses on inclusive growth, affordable compute access, and regional participation ahead of the India–AI Impact Summit 2026.

UIDAI logged 231 crore Aadhaar authentications in November

Aadhaar usage in India surged in November 2025, with 231 crore authentication transactions, an 8.5% annual growth and the highest monthly figure of the financial year. Face authentication saw rapid adoption, recording 28.29 crore transactions, driven largely by pensioners generating Digital Life Certificates. Aadhaar-based e-KYC also grew strongly, reaching 47.19 crore transactions, a 24% rise from last year. The sharp increase in authentication, e-KYC, and face verification reflects Aadhaar's expanding role in welfare delivery, digital services, and India's growing digital economy.

Bharat Taxi has started trial operations in Delhi and Gujarat

Bharat Taxi, a driver-owned cooperative ride-hailing platform, has begun pilot operations in Delhi and Gujarat as a people-centric alternative to Uber and

Ola. Backed by the Ministry of Cooperation, it offers zero commission, no surge pricing, and transparent

fares, allowing drivers—called *Saarthis*—to earn 100% of their income. The beta app has already onboarded 51,000+ drivers, reflecting strong early momentum. Integrated with government digital services, Bharat Taxi supports the “Sahakar Se Samriddhi” vision of cooperative-led, inclusive growth.

International

Putin's India Visit Boosts Strategic Ties in Summit

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India on December 4-5, 2025, for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at Modi's invitation. This first trip since 2021 aims to review bilateral progress, outline future cooperation in defence, energy, trade targeting \$100 billion by 2030, and discuss global issues like Ukraine and BRICS. President Droupadi Murmu will host a banquet, underscoring the enduring Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership since 2010 amid geopolitical shifts.



Temasek Names Former DBS Chief Piyush Gupta As Its India Chair

Temasek has appointed former DBS Group CEO Piyush Gupta as its non-executive Chairman for India, effective 1 December 2025. In this advisory role, Gupta will collaborate with the firm's India head to shape investment strategies, support portfolio companies'

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Indian operations, and engage with both government and business stakeholders. Known for leading DBS

through a digital transformation and regional expansion from 2009 to 2025, Gupta brings decades of banking and finance expertise. The appointment reflects Temasek's intention to deepen institutional ties and expand its India portfolio.

Moody's Projects India To Lead Emerging Economies With Seven Percent Growth In 2025

Moody's has forecast that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by 7 percent in 2025, positioning the country as the fastest-growing large economy among emerging and Asia-Pacific markets. The agency credits strong domestic demand, robust public infrastructure investment, and resilient fiscal-monetary conditions for underpinning growth despite global economic uncertainty. Moody's also expects growth to moderate to 6.4 percent in 2026. This projection reflects confidence in India's ability to sustain momentum through consumption and policy support.

Sudan has approved Russia's plan to build its first naval base in Africa

Sudan has approved Russia's plan to build its first naval base in Africa near Port Sudan, giving Moscow a strategic foothold on the Red Sea, a route handling 12% of global trade. The 25-year agreement allows up to 300 personnel and four naval vessels, including nuclear-powered ships. The base strengthens Russia's overseas military reach amid uncertainty over its Tartus facility in Syria. However, Sudan's political instability may pose challenges despite both sides confirming full agreement on the deal.

India has assumed the chairmanship of the International (IDEA)

India will assume the chairship of International IDEA on 3 December 2025, represented by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, marking its first time leading the global democracy-support

Founded in 1995 and headquartered in Stockholm, IDEA promotes sustainable democracy across 35 member states. India's leadership comes as democratic systems face rising global challenges. With its experience managing elections for nearly a billion voters, India will help shape global electoral reforms, strengthen capacity building, and promote inclusive, transparent, and resilient democratic practices worldwide.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

India Secures Third Spot in Asia Power Index

India earned third place in the 2025 Asia Power Index by Lowy Institute, scoring 40.0 out of 100 and qualifying as a major power for the first time with a 2% score gain. This rise stems from robust economic growth, demographic advantages, defence upgrades like Operation Sindoor, and improved trade ties, surpassing Japan while trailing US (81.7) and China (73.7). The index assesses 27 entities on eight metrics including military strength, resilience, and diplomacy, highlighting India's potential amid regional shifts.

Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index 2025-26

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index 2025/26 shows global stagnation in women's wellbeing, with 676 million women exposed to conflict—a 74% rise since 2010. Denmark tops the index, while Afghanistan ranks last. India stands at 131st (score 0.607), reflecting uneven progress in safety, participation, and justice. The US improves to 31st due to reduced maternal mortality. Overall, the index highlights widening gender gaps, the severe impact of conflict, and the need for stronger, women-focused policy action worldwide.

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Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

Sipan Garg Assumes THDC India CMD Additional Charge

Sipan Kumar Garg, THDC India Limited's Director (Finance) since August 17, 2024, took additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director on November 25, 2025, following R K Vishnoi's death on November 15. With over 24 years in power sector finance, accounts, taxation, and operations, including CFO roles at NTPC subsidiaries Aravali Power and Patratu Vidyut, Garg holds CA, CMA, CS qualifications, LL.B., and rank-holder status. The three-month tenure ensures leadership continuity at the NTPC-owned hydropower and renewables firm headquartered in Rishikesh.

India Global Forum Unveils Two Hundred Fifty Million Dollar Fund To Scale Indian Brands Worldwide

The India Global Forum has launched a US \$250 million fund aimed at supporting high-potential Indian consumer and industrial brands in their global expansion. Announced at IGF Middle East 2025, the initiative uses Dubai's logistics infrastructure and IGF's network of investors, partners and global contacts to facilitate market entry across the Middle East, Africa, Europe and beyond. Target sectors include food and beverage, consumer goods, chemicals, automotive, advanced manufacturing and industrial products. The programme offers tailored market-entry support and curated access to investors and customers worldwide.

Paschal Donohoe Appointed World Bank MD and CKO

Paschal Donohoe, former Ireland Minister for Finance and Eurogroup President, has been appointed Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer of the World Bank Group from November 24, 2025. Bringing over two decades of public and private sector expertise, including work at Procter & Gamble, Donohoe will lead the Bank's 'Knowledge Bank,' driving innovation, knowledge sharing, and scalable

development solutions. His role focuses on enhancing collaboration with governments, civil society, and philanthropy to boost global development impact and economic progress.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu Takes Charge of Warship Production

Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu, AVSM, NM, assumed charge as the Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition on November 28, 2025, succeeding Vice Admiral Rajaram Swaminathan. With over 38 years of service, Sadhu brings expertise in naval engineering, strategic defense, and modernization programs, including significant roles in the induction of INS Vikramaditya and leadership positions across major naval dockyards. His appointment is set to advance India's indigenous warship production and maritime defense capabilities.

Air Marshal Tejbir Singh Appointed DG Inspection & Safety, IAF

Air Marshal Tejbir Singh took charge as Director General (Inspection and Safety) of the Indian Air Force on December 1, 2025. With 37 years of distinguished service and over 7,000 flying hours, he has extensive operational expertise including pioneering the induction of the C-130J 'Super Hercules' aircraft and establishing the first Special Operations Squadron. His leadership roles include commanding flying bases, a premier training establishment, and a frontline operational airbase. Decorated with Vayu Sena Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, he succeeds Air Marshal Makarand Bhaskar Ranade, continuing to strengthen IAF's safety and inspection framework.

Vivek Chaturvedi Appointed New CBIC Chairman December 1

Vivek Chaturvedi, a 1990-batch IRS officer with over 30 years of expertise, has been appointed Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) effective December 1, 2025. He brings extensive experience in vigilance, compliance, tax

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administration, and policy. Previously Principal Director General of Vigilance and Chief Vigilance Officer, Chaturvedi succeeds Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, leading India's indirect tax system through reforms and enhanced transparency under GST and customs policy.

Manali Kshirsagar Appointed as Nagpur University's First Woman Vice-Chancellor in a Century

Nagpur University has appointed Manali Makarand Kshirsagar as its first woman vice-chancellor since 1923, marking a major step toward inclusive and modern leadership. A PhD holder in computer science with an MBA in finance and marketing, she brings strong academic and administrative expertise from her previous role at Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering. Her five-year tenure is expected to strengthen research, digital learning, transparency, and industry collaboration, guiding the century-old university toward progressive and student-centric growth.

The RBI has appointed Usha Janakiraman as its new Executive Director

The RBI has appointed Smt. Usha Janakiraman as Executive Director from 1 December 2025. With over 30 years of experience across key areas, banking regulation, external investments, public debt, supervision, and currency management, she previously served as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Department of Regulation. As ED, she will lead the Department of Supervision, focusing on risk assessment, analytics, and vulnerability evaluation. Her appointment supports RBI's push for stronger oversight, data-driven regulation, and enhanced banking sector stability.

Brendan Nelson has been appointed as the new Chairman of HSBC

HSBC has appointed Brendan Nelson as its new chairman from December 3, 2025, succeeding Mark Tucker. Nelson, who joined the board in 2023 and served as interim chair since October 2025, brings

extensive governance and auditing experience from his years at KPMG. He will oversee HSBC's strategic shift toward Asia alongside CEO Georges Elhedery while managing geopolitical and financial challenges.

Tucker's tenure included steering the bank through COVID-19 and defending its Asia-focused operations strategy.

RBI has approved Vikram Sahu's appointment as the CEO of Bank of America India

RBI has approved Vikram Sahu as CEO of Bank of America NA (India) for a three-year term, in addition to his role as India Country Executive. Sahu will lead local governance, strategy, and regulatory alignment, succeeding Kaku Nakhate, who becomes Chair of Bank of America India. A member of the Asia Pacific Executive Committee, he will oversee growth and compliance while reporting to APAC President Jin Su. The appointment underscores Bank of America's strengthened leadership and long-term commitment to the Indian market.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

India-US Seal ₹7,900 Crore MH-60R Sustainment Pact

India finalized a ₹7,900 crore agreement with the US under Foreign Military Sales for five-year support of its MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, covering spares, training, repairs, and in-country facilities to boost readiness. Signed in New Delhi, the deal aids Aatmanirbhar Bharat by involving MSMEs in logistics, reducing foreign dependency for the Navy's anti-submarine warfare assets inducted since 2020. It enhances Indo-Pacific maritime ops amid rising threats, deepening bilateral defence ties.

Prime Minister Launches Vikram-I Rocket And Inaugurates Skyroot's Infinity Campus

The Prime Minister virtually inaugurated Skyroot Aerospace's new Infinity Campus in Hyderabad on 27 November 2025 and unveiled Vikram-I, India's first

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privately built orbital rocket. The Infinity Campus spans roughly 2,00,000 square feet and will enable production of one launch-vehicle per month.

Vikram-I is designed to deploy satellites into low Earth orbit, underscoring India's push into private-sector space ventures. This development signals growing trust in home-grown private innovation and aims to expand India's presence in the global commercial space market.

Cyclone Ditwah Approaches Tamil Nadu Coast As Officials Prepare For Severe Weather

Cyclone Ditwah — moving over the southwest Bay of Bengal — is forecast to make landfall along northern Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and southern Andhra Pradesh. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued red alerts for several coastal districts, warning of very heavy rainfall (over 20 cm in 24 hours), gale-force winds up to 80 km/h and turbulent seas. In response, local authorities have cancelled flights, closed schools and mobilised disaster-management teams. Residents are urged to stay indoors, avoid sea travel and secure essential supplies.

Asian Paints Joins As Team India's Official Colour Partner Under New Three-Year BCCI Agreement

Asian Paints has signed a new three-year sponsorship deal with the BCCI, becoming the official colour partner for Team India across men's, women's and domestic cricket. The agreement covers about 110 matches and includes on-ground activations, digital fan-engagement campaigns and a fan initiative called "Colour Cam" to highlight colourful supporters. The partnership aims to extend Asian Paints' home-decor branding into millions of households that follow cricket, leveraging strong viewership and fan engagement across India and neighbouring countries.

India Mandates SIM-Linking for Messaging Apps

India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT)

SIM-linking within 90 days to curb telecom cyber fraud and enhance cybersecurity. This rule requires apps to function only when linked to an active SIM card on the device, with web versions logging out users every six hours and requiring QR-code re-login. Backed by the Telecommunications Act 2023 and Cybersecurity Amendment Rules 2025, non-compliance risks legal action. The move aims to close loopholes exploited for account hijacking and identity spoofing, securing India's digital communication landscape.

India Launches Indigenous Hansa-3 NG Trainer Aircraft

The Union Minister of State for Science and Technology launched the production version of India's indigenous Hansa-3 NG at CSIR-NAL in Bengaluru. Hansa-3 NG is India's first all-composite, two-seat pilot trainer aircraft designed to meet the growing demand for Private Pilot License (PPL) and Commercial Pilot License (CPL) training. Manufactured by Pioneer Clean Amps in Andhra Pradesh, it supports India's goal to train nearly 30,000 pilots in the next 15–20 years and reduces reliance on foreign trainers.

ISRO Chief Inaugurates India's First Private Navigation Centre

ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan inaugurated the Ananth Centre of Excellence for Navigation (ACEN) in Thiruvananthapuram, India's first private-sector navigation innovation hub established by Ananth Technologies. This centre aims to boost indigenous navigation technology, vital for defence, space, and civilian applications, reducing India's dependence on foreign GPS systems. The facility will focus on developing navigation sensors, AI-based fusion technology, and maintenance capabilities, supporting India's Vision 2035 and Atmanirbhar Bharat goals for technological self-reliance and strategic autonomy.

14th Exercise Ekuverin Scheduled December in Kerala

The 14th edition of the annual bilateral Exercise Ekuverin between the Indian Army and the

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National Defence Force will be held from December 2 to 15, 2025, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Established in 2009, Ekuverin—meaning 'Friends' in Dhivehi—alternates yearly between India and the Maldives. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability for counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations, conduct joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) drills, and practice operations in semi-urban, jungle, and coastal terrains, deepening defence cooperation and mutual trust.

India Plans More Heron MK-II Drones, Discusses Local Production

India is set to procure additional Heron MK-II unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), following their effective deployment in recent operations. Discussions are underway to locally manufacture these medium-altitude long-endurance drones in India to reduce import dependence and boost the domestic defence industry. The Heron MK-II can operate at altitudes of up to 35,000 feet, maintain 45 hours of endurance, and carry advanced sensors for long-range intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions. Partnerships with HAL and ELCOM are key to the indigenization plan, which aligns with India's Make in India initiative and technology transfer goals.

The India–Maldives joint military exercise EKUVERIN 2025 has commenced in Kerala

The 14th Exercise EKUVERIN between India and the Maldives began on 2 December 2025 in Thiruvananthapuram, reinforcing long-standing defence cooperation. Meaning “friends” in Dhivehi, the drill includes 45 Indian Army personnel from the GARHWAL RIFLES and an equal MNDF contingent. The two-week exercise focuses on counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism, and joint operations in varied terrain. Through tactical training and operational planning, EKUVERIN enhances interoperability,

strengthens military diplomacy, and boosts regional security in the Indian Ocean Region.

Sports

Deepti Sharma Emerges As Highest-Valued Player At WPL Auction For 2026 Season

At the 2026 Women's Premier League mega-auction held in New Delhi, Deepti Sharma fetched ₹ 3.20 crore when retained by UP Warriorz, becoming the most expensive player of the auction — and the joint second-most expensive in WPL history. Her all-round skills and standout performance in recent international fixtures drove the bidding war. Several key players changed teams, while marquee names from overseas also commanded high prices. The new season teams are now finalised ahead of the January 2026 start.

Virat Kohli Breaks Record With 52nd ODI Century

Virat Kohli surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record by scoring his 52nd ODI century during the first ODI against South Africa in Ranchi on November 30, 2025. This makes Kohli the male cricketer with the most centuries in a single format, cementing his legacy as one of the greatest batsmen. He also set a record for the most centuries against South Africa in ODIs with six. Kohli's total international centuries stand at 83, second only to Tendulkar's 100, highlighting his remarkable consistency and skill over a long career.

PNB has named Harmanpreet Kaur as its first woman brand ambassador

Punjab National Bank has appointed Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its first female brand ambassador, underscoring its focus on women's empowerment and brand modernisation. At the New Delhi event, she launched key offerings, including the PNB RuPay Metal Credit Card Luxura, PNB One 2.0, Digi Surya Ghar, and PNB's onboarding on the IIBX portal. Calling the moment special, she shared her long association with PNB. Bank leaders praised her

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leadership and aligned the partnership with PNB's digital and customer-centric vision.

Armand Duplantis and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone have been honoured as the World Athletes of the Year 2025

The World Athletics Awards 2025 honored Armand Duplantis and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone as World Athletes of the Year for their undefeated seasons and record-breaking performances at the Tokyo World Championships. Duplantis set four world records, clearing 6.30m in pole vault, while McLaughlin-Levrone ran 47.78s in the 400m, a championship record. Other winners included Nicola Olyslagers, Emmanuel Wanyonyi, Maria Perez, and Sabastian Sawe. Held annually since 1988, the awards celebrate global excellence ahead of the Paris 2026 Olympics.

Miscellaneous

Jay Shah Wins Indian of the Year Outstanding Achievement

ICC Chairman Jay Shah received CNN-News18's Indian of the Year 2025 award for Outstanding Achievement, saluting his pivotal reforms in cricket governance. From BCCI secretary to ICC leader, he launched the Women's Premier League, achieved gender pay equality, secured massive media deals, and advanced cricket's Olympic inclusion. The November 28 event also celebrated India's women's team World Cup triumph, with Shah dedicating the honor to stars like Harmanpreet Kaur, Jhulan Goswami, and Mithali Raj amid sports icons.

Camikara Makes History As First Indian Rum To Earn Global Brand Of The Year Title

Camikara, India's first pure cane-juice aged rum, has won the 'Rum Brand of the Year' award at the prestigious global Spirits Business Awards 2025 held in London — the first time any Indian rum has earned that title. Distilled from fresh sugar-cane juice and

matured in oak barrels without added sugar, colour or flavour, Camikara outperformed well-established international rums. The victory signals rising global recognition for Indian craft spirits and could reshape perceptions about Indian rum quality and potential.

India's Renewed Fight Against AIDS By 2030

India reaffirmed its commitment on World AIDS Day 2025 to eliminate AIDS by 2030, emphasizing NACP Phase V. The program, backed by ₹15,471.94 crore, builds upon decades of progress since the 1980s, shifting from emergency response to a rights-based, comprehensive approach under NACO. Phase V intensifies testing, treatment, and prevention efforts through community involvement and strong legal frameworks. It aligns with global Sustainable Development Goals, positioning India as a leader in HIV/AIDS control worldwide.

SBI and BoI Partner to Lead Project Financing Excellence

State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of India (BoI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Centre of Excellence for Strategic Partnership focused on project financing leadership in India. This collaboration aims to jointly co-finance large infrastructure and industrial projects, build employee expertise through training, and enhance brand presence in corporate financing. The partnership addresses India's growing need for structured financing in sectors like infrastructure and energy, supporting the nation's economic development through stronger financial backing and innovative banking solutions.

UNFPA India Honors IUSSP with 2025 UN Population Award

UNFPA India felicitated the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) for winning the 2025 United Nations Population Award in the Institutional Category. The award recognizes IUSSP's

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exemplary global work in advancing population science, fostering collaboration among demographers, and supporting evidence-based policy to address demographic challenges. The felicitation took place at the 46th Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Population, emphasizing critical issues like sustainable demographic growth and inclusive development in India.

World Computer Literacy Day 2025 Promotes Digital Inclusion

World Computer Literacy Day 2025, observed annually on December 2, emphasizes the crucial need for digital education and equal access to computer skills. Established in 2001 by NIIT Limited, the day initially focused on empowering women and children through computer training. It now highlights the importance of bridging the global digital divide amid rapid technological advancements such as AI and digital banking. The 2025 theme, 'Digital Skills for an Inclusive Future,' encourages efforts to promote digital literacy among underserved communities and foster responsible technology use worldwide.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December) highlights the 2025 theme: "Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress." The UN stresses that inclusion is essential for reducing poverty, expanding decent work, and strengthening social integration. Despite progress, barriers persist in employment, social protection, and dignified care. The UN Disability Inclusion Strategy pushes for stronger accountability and participation of disabled persons. The 2025 global event focuses on advancing inclusion through the Doha Declaration and sharing best practices for equitable development.

Haryana's Lado Lakshmi Yojana will begin providing quarterly financial assistance starting December 2025

of Rs. 2,100 monthly, aiming to simplify disbursement and offer better financial planning for women. Launched in September 2025, the scheme supports 23–60-year-old women from economically weaker sections through a fully digital, Aadhaar-verified process. Over 7 lakh beneficiaries have already received assistance, with Rs. 148 crore disbursed. The quarterly shift reduces administrative load while continuing to promote women's economic security and social empowerment.