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National

NFIES Boosts India's Forensic Lab Infrastructure

India's National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES), a Central Sector initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs with ₹2254.43 crore outlay from 2024-25 to 2028-29, addresses forensic gaps amid new laws mandating investigations for serious crimes. Components include establishing 9 NFSU off-campus, 7 Central Forensic Science Laboratories, and upgrading Delhi NFSU campus to train professionals, reduce backlogs, enhance evidence quality, and target over 90% conviction rates through scientific policing.

DigiLocker Enables Paperless Passport Verification

MEITY and MEA integrate Passport Verification Records (PVRs) into DigiLocker, allowing secure digital access, storage, sharing, and verification without physical documents. Citizens view PVRs in the 'Issued Documents' section post-generation, streamlining applications, background checks, and services while cutting forgery risks and in-person visits. This advances Digital India's paperless governance, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and contactless delivery via NeGD's cloud platform for trusted official records.



Amit Shah launches EARTH Summit, Sahakar Sarathi services.

Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the second EARTH Summit 2025 in Gandhinagar on December 5, unveiling over 13 digital services under the NABARD-Ministry of Cooperation's Sahakar Sarathi initiative to modernize rural cooperative banks with internet banking, UPI, core banking, Digi KCC, ePACS, and grain storage apps. The summit addresses agriculture and rural challenges, launching Sahakar Taxi pilot with 51,000 drivers and cooperative insurance schemes appointing village youth ambassadors to expand health, life, and crop coverage. These steps aim to equip cooperatives with commercial-grade tech, boost governance via a new index, and strengthen India's rural economy serving over 50 crore members.



India hosts UNESCO ICH session, nominates Diwali.

India will host the 20th session of UNESCO's Inter-governmental Committee for Intangible Cultural Heritage at Red Fort in New Delhi from December 8 to 13, 2025, convening global representatives to review nominations and safeguarding strategies for living traditions like festivals and crafts. Diwali, symbolizing light over darkness, unity, and community rituals, stands nominated for

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inscription, following prior successes such as Yoga and Kumbh Mela, with positive expert review boosting prospects. This event at the World Heritage Site underscores India's cultural diplomacy, preservation efforts, tourism potential, and role in global heritage harmony.



Delhi High Court Dismisses Patent Violation Case Filed Against Dr Reddy's Laboratories

Delhi High Court dismissed an interim injunction sought by Novo Nordisk against Dr Reddy's Laboratories, allowing Dr Reddy's to manufacture and export semaglutide to countries where the patent is not in force. The court found Dr Reddy's raised a credible challenge to the patent, noting concerns of double patenting and insufficient prima facie case for infringement. The ruling permits production and export while restricting domestic sales until patent expiry or further order, subject to accounting safeguards and possible monetary compensation.

Supreme Court Clarifies That Artificial Intelligence Will Not Replace India's Judicial Administration

The Supreme Court of India clarified that artificial intelligence will not replace human judges in delivering judicial verdicts. While courts may employ AI tools for tasks like legal research, document translation, transcription and case

tracking, the ultimate responsibility for interpreting law remains with human judges. AI may enhance procedural efficiency but cannot capture human empathy, moral judgment or the nuanced reasoning required for justice. The court affirmed that final decisions must rest on human intellect, conscience and constitutional values.



Lok Sabha Receives Private Members' Proposal Advocating a Legal 'Right to Disconnect'

A private member's bill titled Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025 has been introduced in the lower house, advocating a legal right for employees to ignore work calls, emails or messages beyond office hours or on holidays. The proposal seeks to establish an Employees' Welfare Authority to enforce this right, and suggests a penalty amounting to one percent of total employee remuneration for non-compliance by companies. It aims to safeguard work-life balance, reduce stress and prevent burnout related to constant connectivity in modern workplaces.

DGCA Grants IndiGo Temporary Relief in Duty Time Rules Amidst Extensive Flight Disruptions

The DGCA has granted IndiGo a one-time temporary exemption from key night-duty and rest-period rules under its Flight Duty Time

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Limitations (FDTL). The reprieve covers night duty between midnight and 6:50 a.m. and relaxes earlier restrictions on night operations for the airline's A320 fleet. The exemption remains valid until February 10, 2026, conditional on compliance with safety norms and submission of a roadmap to restore full rules compliance. The move aims to stabilise operations after widespread cancellations and reduce passenger disruption.

India Introduces DHRUVA for Secure Digital Addresses

DHRUVA, launched by the Department of Posts, is India's new digital framework designed to create secure and verified Digital Address Identifiers (DAIs) for all physical locations. Built on the concept of Address as a Service, it aims to improve delivery accuracy, strengthen digital governance, and enhance service efficiency across sectors like logistics, e-commerce, finance, and welfare schemes. Supported by proposed amendments to the Post Office Act, 2023, DHRUVA promises interoperability, consent-based usage, and a regulated ecosystem involving ASPs and AVAs.

Rajasthan Fully Digitises Voter Rolls Under SIR

Rajasthan has become the first Indian state to achieve 100% digitisation of electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme. Announced by CEO Navin Mahajan on 6 December 2025, the initiative enhances electoral transparency through verified digital voter data. With 97% voter mapping—the highest in the country—the system ensures accurate booth alignment and easier verification. Digitisation reduces paperwork, improves accuracy, and limits fraud. Rajasthan will publish the draft roll on 16 December 2025, followed by claims, objections, and final roll release in February 2026.

Deloitte Launches AI-Powered Tax Pragya Platform

Deloitte India will launch its AI-driven platform, Tax Pragya, on December 9, 2025, to revolutionize tax research. The platform enables near-instant analysis of over a million tax-related judgments and two decades of Deloitte's proprietary tax knowledge, covering both direct and indirect taxes. Tax Pragya reduces research time, provides actionable insights, and supports predictive litigation analysis. Initially offered to 500 clients, it will expand nationwide by June 2026, enhancing decision-making for tax professionals and supporting India's move toward digital and AI-enabled legal-tax solutions.



NMDC Partners with IIT Kanpur for Digital Innovation

NMDC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Kanpur to strengthen cybersecurity and drive digital transformation across its mining operations. The collaboration will focus on AI and ML integration, joint research, pilot projects, and staff training programs. By enhancing operational intelligence and developing indigenous digital solutions, NMDC aims to become a cyber-resilient, future-ready mining enterprise. The partnership also emphasizes capacity building, cybersecurity risk assessment, and the adoption of advanced

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technologies to optimize safety and efficiency in mining operations.

SEBI Introduces PaRRVA Platform to Check Investment Claims and Curb Misleading Finfluencer Content

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched a new agency called Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA) to independently verify past returns and risk-return metrics for registered investment advisers, research analysts and algorithmic brokers. The aim is to prevent exaggerated or fabricated performance claims often used by “finfluencers” and unregistered advisors, promoting transparency and investor protection. Through standardised digital audit trails and oversight, PaRRVA allows genuine intermediaries to showcase verified track records, while misleading claims will lose credibility.



Adani Group to Establish 2500 Crore AI-Based Green Data Centre in Telangana

Adani Group will invest ₹2,500 crore to build a 48-megawatt green data centre in Telangana, supporting artificial intelligence, cloud computing and high-performance computing needs. The centre, announced at a major summit, marks the conglomerate’s growing role in digital

infrastructure. The investment also builds on the group’s earlier ₹10,000 crore in various sectors in the state. This facility is expected to support India’s rapidly expanding demand for AI and large-scale data processing.

Bollywood Actor Raveena Tandon Honoured with PETA India’s Top Annual Recognition

Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon has been named PETA India’s 2025 Person of the Year for her steadfast commitment to animal welfare and compassionate activism. She has embraced a meat-free lifestyle, championed protection of wildlife and community animals, and promoted empathy for all living beings. Her efforts include advocating against cruelty, supporting adoption of homeless animals, and encouraging humane practices. The award acknowledges her sustained advocacy and influence in promoting ethical treatment of animals across India.



NHAI’s Raajmarg Infra InvIT Receives SEBI’s Initial Approval for Public Listing

SEBI has granted in-principle approval for RIIT — proposed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) — to register as an Infrastructure Investment Trust under regulations. This clears the

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first step toward RIIT becoming a publicly listed InvIT, enabling monetisation of highway assets. The approval supports India's infrastructure funding strategy and offers investors a new avenue to invest in road assets. Final listing depends on compliance with regulatory conditions.



Maharashtra Achieves Guinness World Record for Large-Scale Solar Pump Installation in Farming Sector

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) has installed 45,911 off-grid solar agricultural pumps in just 30 days, a feat officially recognised by Guinness World Records. This rapid rollout under the PM-KUSUM and Magel Tyala Saur Krushi Pump Yojana schemes makes Maharashtra India's fastest state in solar-powered farming adoption and the second fastest globally for a regional deployment of this scale. The initiative aims to enhance irrigation security, boost farm productivity and reduce reliance on conventional electricity. By tailoring pump capacity to land size and prioritizing drought-prone zones, the programme supports equitable benefits for small and marginal farmers.

India Starts Preparations for Second WHO Global Meet on Traditional Medicine

India has formally initiated preparations for the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, slated for December 17–19 2025 in New Delhi. The summit, organised jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the national Ministry of Ayush, will gather over 100 countries to discuss evidence-based integration of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine systems into global health frameworks. The summit will focus on policy dialogue, research collaboration, regulation and equitable access to traditional medicine. Preparatory steps include diplomatic outreach, stakeholder engagement, and setting up sessions — including a spotlight segment dedicated to the medicinal plant Ashwagandha.

Gyan Bharatam Mission Launched to Digitally Preserve India's Manuscript Heritage

The government has launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission to safeguard India's rich manuscript heritage through systematic digitisation, preservation, cataloguing and dissemination. The initiative aims to document over one crore manuscripts across languages and materials, creating a National Digital Repository. Advanced tools such as AI, OCR, and cloud platforms will support the process. The first international conference under the mission has laid out a structured roadmap involving conservation experts, scholars, and technologists to revive, make accessible and globalise India's ancient textual legacy.

India Post Launches Kerala's First Gen-Z Post Office Extension

India Post has opened Kerala's first Gen-Z Post Office Extension Counter at CMS College, Kottayam, on 9 December 2025, introducing a modern, student-friendly approach to postal services. Designed as a blend of work café, green

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retreat, and creative hub, the space features nature-themed seating, charging stations, a mini-library, and an MPCM counter with MyStamp printing. Built on the idea “Of the students, by the students, for the students,” the initiative promotes sustainability, innovation, and youth engagement while redefining how postal services function on campuses.



UNESCO Lists Deepavali as Intangible Cultural Heritage, Expanding India's Global Cultural Influence

Deepavali has been added to UNESCO's 2025 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, recognising its cultural, spiritual, and social significance. Celebrated globally, the festival embodies the triumph of light over darkness and includes rituals, crafts, community gatherings, and inclusive values. Its inscription highlights India's vibrant living traditions and strengthens its cultural soft power. Deepavali joins 20 other heritage elements listed in 2025, reflecting global efforts to preserve diverse cultural practices. Bangladesh also received recognition for Tangail saree weaving.

Nagaland Unveils 'Mission Punarutthan' as Part of Watershed Mahotsav 2025

The State-Level Watershed Mahotsav 2025 and Mission Watershed Punarutthan were launched in Kohima to strengthen water conservation and rural resilience. The initiative focuses on reviving springs, improving watershed structures, boosting water availability and promoting community-led resource management. Supported by schemes like MGNREGA, it enhances livelihoods while restoring ecosystems. Nagaland has made significant progress under PMKSY, with multiple projects sanctioned, water structures repaired, and farmers benefiting. Since India has limited freshwater resources, such efforts are crucial for groundwater recharge, climate resilience and long-term national water security.



India to Host the Inaugural Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship in March 2026

India will host the first Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship from March 9–14, 2026, marking a major global milestone for the traditional sport. With approval from Commonwealth Sports, the event is set to feature participation from over 24 nations, reflecting Kho Kho's rising international appeal. The tournament will include 16 men's and 16 women's teams, following the format of the recent Kho Kho World Cup. The venue is yet to be

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finalised, though Ahmedabad is a strong contender. The championship is expected to boost Kho Kho's chances for inclusion in major future events and promote Indian indigenous sports globally.

RBI Approves SBI and Bank of Baroda to Set Up a Digital Payments Fraud Detection System

The Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC), formed by SBI and Bank of Baroda with RBI's approval, aims to strengthen fraud detection in India's digital banking ecosystem. Set up as a Section 8 non-profit company, it will monitor transaction patterns, prevent suspicious activities, and share real-time intelligence with public sector banks. RBI's approval includes a temporary exemption from Section 19(2), allowing both banks to hold over 30% equity until October 2026. The initiative enhances cyber-security, promotes inter-bank coordination, and boosts public trust in digital payments.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Launches India's First Zero-Emission Electric Tug Initiative

India has begun a major shift toward eco-friendly port operations with the launch of its first fully electric green tug, initiated by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. Built for the Deendayal Port Authority under the Green Tug Transition Programme, the tug features zero emissions, 60-ton bollard pull, high efficiency, and advanced navigation systems. It marks progress toward the government's plan of deploying 50 green tugs by 2030. Constructed at Atreya Shipyard, it supports India's climate commitments and aligns with Maritime India Vision 2030, signalling a new era of sustainable maritime growth.

Indian Railways Set to Introduce Its First Hydrogen-Powered Train, Highlighting India's Push for Self-Reliance

Indian Railways has completed its first hydrogen-powered train, marking a major step toward clean and modern rail technology. Developed entirely in India under Atmanirbhar Bharat, the train is the world's longest and most powerful hydrogen broad-gauge train, featuring 10 coaches and generating 2400 kW. A hydrogen plant in Jind will supply fuel through electrolysis. The train emits only water vapour, ensuring zero pollution. As a pilot project, it showcases India's commitment to next-generation green fuel and a sustainable transport future.



International

Russia Ratifies RELOS Pact with India

Russia's State Duma ratified the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) agreement with India in December 2025, ahead of President Putin's visit, enabling mutual access to military bases for refuelling, repairs, supplies, and berthing during joint exercises, operations, and disaster relief. Signed February 18, 2025, it grants India entry to over 40 Russian facilities including Arctic and Pacific ports like Vladivostok, enhancing interoperability, long-range deployments, and defence supply chains for Su-30MKI and S-400 platforms.

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Netflix Set to Purchase Warner Bros Discovery Studios and Streaming Operations in 72 Billion Dollar Deal

Netflix has agreed to acquire Warner Bros. Discovery's film and television studios along with its streaming operations in a major cash-and-stock deal valued at roughly USD 72 billion (enterprise value about USD 82.7 billion). The agreement will bring a vast library of movies and series — including iconic franchises — under Netflix's banner. The acquisition is expected to close after Warner Bros. Discovery completes the planned spin-off of its Global Networks division, likely by late 2026, pending regulatory approvals.



Operation Sagar Bandhu: Indian Navy Deploys Four Additional Warships to Support Sri Lanka

In response to cyclone-induced devastation in Sri Lanka, India has deployed four additional naval vessels under Operation Sagar Bandhu to deliver

humanitarian aid and support rescue operations. The ships — INS Gharial and three Landing Craft Utility vessels (LCU 54, LCU 51 and LCU 57) — are carrying nearly 1000 tonnes of emergency relief supplies including food, clothing, shelter materials and medical provisions. The LCUs have already reached Colombo and handed over supplies, while INS Gharial is scheduled to dock at Trincomalee. Earlier deployments by other ships and aircraft aided search-and-rescue and initial aid delivery. The operation underscores strong ties between India and Sri Lanka and highlights rapid regional humanitarian support.

Belarus Balloon Incursions Prompt Lithuania to Declare a State of Emergency

Lithuania declared a state of emergency on 9 December 2025 after repeated airspace violations by cigarette-filled balloons launched from Belarus. Authorities say these incursions, which disrupted flights and even shut the main airport, reflect deliberate hybrid tactics aimed at creating instability. The balloons are viewed as threats to aviation safety, national security, and public order. Lithuania suspects Belarus, backed by Russia, of orchestrating the disruptions. The emergency order allows faster security deployment, enhanced airspace surveillance, and quicker interception measures to safeguard civilians and critical infrastructure amid escalating regional tensions.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

RBI Launches ₹1 Trillion OMO for Liquidity Boost

Reserve Bank of India announced ₹1 trillion Open Market Operation purchase alongside a \$5 billion dollar-rupee swap to counter rupee weakening past 90/USD amid foreign outflows draining bank liquidity. OMO buys government securities to inject durable funds, easing money market stress, stabilizing rates, and enhancing monetary transmission unlike

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Sanjay Malhotra emphasized support for market stability and growth amid resilient GDP and easing inflation despite global volatility.

Asim Munir Named Pakistan's First Chief Defence Forces

Field Marshal Asim Munir was formally appointed Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces on 5 December 2025 following the 27th Constitutional Amendment. This new role centralizes command over the Army, Navy, and Air Force, consolidating military leadership previously fragmented under the abolished Chief of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. Munir retains his position as Chief of Army Staff and oversees strategic assets and defence policy, signaling enhanced military dominance amid debates on civil-military balance and regional security implications.

Dr Renuka Iyer appointed NCCN Chief Medical Officer.

Dr Renuka Iyer, a distinguished gastrointestinal oncologist from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, takes on the role of Chief Medical Officer at the National Comprehensive Cancer Network starting February 26, 2026. With over 20 years in clinical practice, research on rare tumors, immunotherapy, and guideline development, she will oversee updates to NCCN's 90 evidence-based cancer care pathways. Her leadership, including prior NCCN committee service, positions her to advance global education, policy advocacy, and equitable access through innovative tools and partnerships.

Fino Payments Bank gains RBI SFB conversion approval.

Fino Payments Bank secured the Reserve Bank of India's in-principle nod on December 5, 2025, to transition into a Small Finance Bank after operating since 2017, becoming the first such entity under on-tap licensing rules. This shift lifts

restrictions like the ₹2 lakh deposit cap and no-lending policy, enabling full services including loans to underserved groups such as small farmers and micro enterprises. Fino must place 25% of branches in rural unbanked areas, boosting financial inclusion, revenue diversification, and competition in niche banking while signaling RBI trust in its compliance and stability.

Roman Gofman appointed Mossad chief for June 2026.

Major General Roman Gofman, Netanyahu's military secretary and IDF veteran born in Belarus in 1976, receives appointment as Mossad director starting June 2026, announced December 5, 2025, breaking tradition by shifting a career soldier into intelligence leadership amid post-2023 Hamas failures. His frontline injury during the October 7 assault near Sderot, brigade commands across regions, and operational expertise position him to refocus on early warnings, human intelligence, and threats from Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas in volatile contexts. This rare military-to-spy transition, akin to predecessors like Meir Dagan, underscores Netanyahu's push for trusted figures in covert operations spanning Lebanon, Syria, and beyond.

International Civil Aviation Day 2025 Highlights History, Annual Theme, and Worldwide Importance

December 7, 2025 marks International Civil Aviation Day, commemorating the 1944 global convention that established international civil aviation cooperation. The observance celebrates air transport's enduring role in connecting societies and promoting economic and cultural exchange worldwide. This year's theme emphasises safety, environmental responsibility and sustainable air travel for all nations. Governments and industry stakeholders highlight improved flight safety standards, reduced emissions and equitable access to air transport.

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The day reaffirms aviation's importance for global mobility, development and international collaboration.

Andrej Babiš Takes Oath as the New Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

Andrej Babis, leader of the ANO movement, was sworn in as the Czech Republic's Prime Minister on 9 December 2025 after winning the October elections. His return, four years after his previous term, reflects a major political shift despite longstanding controversies over EU disputes and financial misconduct. Babis formed a majority coalition with the anti-migrant SPD and the Motorists for Themselves party, together holding 108 of 200 seats. The 16-member Cabinet is expected to drive significant policy changes, aligning the country with Europe's broader populist and EU-critical political wave.

TIME Names Leonardo DiCaprio as the 2025 Entertainer of the Year

TIME named Leonardo DiCaprio the Entertainer of the Year 2025, celebrating a career defined by bold role choices and emotional depth. His award centres on his acclaimed performance as Bob Ferguson in *One Battle After Another*, where he showcased exceptional comedic and dramatic range. The film's global success reaffirmed DiCaprio as one of the last true movie stars. Known for his disciplined work ethic, selective public presence, and guidance to younger actors, he is also a prominent environmental activist and co-founder of Re: wild.

IIT Madras and the India AI Mission to Organise a Global AI Conclave in Chennai

India will host the Global AI Conclave on 11 December in Chennai, organised by IIT Madras and the India AI Mission to advance safe, trusted, and inclusive AI. The event focuses on turning AI safety principles into practical governance tools and explores creating an AI Safety Commons for

the Global South to share datasets, benchmarks, and open governance resources. Bringing together policymakers, industry, academia, and civil society, the conclave serves as a lead-up to the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, strengthening India's role in global AI governance.

Amul Extends Its Regional Sponsorship of the Argentina Football Association for the 4th Consecutive Year

Amul has renewed its partnership with the Argentina Football Association (AFA) as the Official Regional Sponsor for a fourth consecutive year, extending the collaboration through the FIFA World Cup 2026. First signed in 2022, the deal marked Amul as the first Indian regional sponsor of Argentine football. AFA President Claudio Tapia and Amul MD Jayen Mehta highlighted the growing bond between the two nations, linking sport and nutrition. The partnership enhances Amul's global presence and promises engaging fan initiatives ahead of World Cup 2026.



BMW Names Milan Nedeljković as Its New Chief Executive Officer

BMW has appointed Milan Nedeljković as its new CEO, replacing Oliver Zipse, with his term beginning on May 14 next year and lasting until 2031. The leadership change comes as BMW faces strong EV competition from China, rising costs, and U.S. tariffs. Nedeljković, a BMW veteran since

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1993, is known for his expertise in global production and electric mobility. His appointment is expected to support BMW's transition to the Neue Klasse EV lineup. Outgoing CEO Zipse, credited for guiding BMW through major disruptions, is set to join Airbus's board.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

DRDO transfers seven indigenous tech to the armed forces.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation transferred seven home-developed defence technologies to India's armed forces on December 2, 2025, under the Technology Development Fund scheme, which supports MSMEs and startups with up to ₹50 crore per project. These innovations, spanning airborne jammers, naval systems, communication tools, propulsion, battery recovery, and underwater surveillance, underwent rigorous validation to boost self-reliance. Concurrently, 12 fresh projects in strategic, aerospace, naval, and electronic warfare areas gained approval, advancing Aatmanirbhar Bharat goals through industry collaboration.

India-Malaysia launches fifth Harimau Shakti exercise.

India and Malaysia commenced the fifth edition of bilateral army exercise Harimau Shakti on December 5 at Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, running until December 18 to boost interoperability in sub-conventional operations under UN Chapter VII mandates. India's Dogra Regiment and Malaysia's 25th Battalion Royal Malaysian Army will practice counter-terror tactics like heliborne insertions, cordon searches, helipad security, casualty evacuation, combat reflex shooting, martial arts, and yoga in desert

conditions. This shift from prior jungle focus strengthens Indo-Pacific defence ties, shares tactics, and prepares for peacekeeping with force.



Google Introduces Gemini Three Deep Think Mode for Ultra Users with Advanced Reasoning Abilities

Google launched Gemini 3 Deep Think mode for Ultra subscribers, introducing advanced parallel reasoning and problem-solving capabilities aimed at complex scientific, mathematical and logic tasks. Available as a selectable mode within Gemini, Deep Think leverages Gemini 3 Pro's enhanced reasoning to evaluate multiple hypotheses, simulate intricate scenarios and produce more detailed stepwise solutions. The feature is limited to high-tier subscribers and intended for specialist use cases, marking a strategic push toward premium, reasoning-focused AI services for power users and enterprises.

Runway's Gen Four Point Five Overtakes Major AI Rivals in Text to Video Innovation Race

The AI firm has unveiled its new model Gen-4.5, which — according to a respected independent benchmark — now leads in text-to-video generation with 1,247 Elo points, surpassing larger competitors. The model delivers cinematic-quality video from text prompts with realistic motion, physics behaviour, consistent object dynamics, and high visual fidelity. It maintains fast inference and

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supports diverse visual styles, enabling creators to generate complex scenes with accurate details and fluid motion. The release has shifted the balance in the AI video-generation industry.

IISF 2025 Showcases Science for Self-Reliance

The 11th India International Science Festival (IISF) began in Panchkula, Haryana on 6 December 2025, highlighting India's advancements in science, technology, and innovation. Held under the theme "Vigyan Se Samruddhi," the four-day event promotes science-driven self-reliance and integrates traditional knowledge with modern research. With over 150 technical sessions, the festival covers ecology, biotechnology, AI, quantum science, and STEM education. Supported by leading scientific departments, IISF expects 40,000+ participants, fostering nationwide collaboration and scientific curiosity.

Indian Navy Sends Relief Ships to Sri Lanka

Under Operation Sagar Bandhu, the Indian Navy has deployed four additional warships—including INS Gharial and three LCUs (LCU 54, 51, 57)—to cyclone-affected regions of Sri Lanka, delivering nearly 1,000 tons of relief material. Earlier, INS Vikrant, INS Udaygiri, and INS Sukanya had provided emergency aid and helicopter-borne search-and-rescue operations. The new deployment, arriving in Colombo on 7 December 2025, demonstrates India's swift humanitarian assistance, commitment to disaster relief, and strong people-to-people ties with Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean Region.

Indian Scientists Discover Alaknanda Galaxy via JWST

Indian astronomers Rashi Jain and Yogesh Wadadekar have discovered a spiral galaxy named Alaknanda using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Located about 30,000 light-years away in the Abell 2744 cluster, the galaxy existed when the universe

exhibits well-formed spiral arms and a high star formation rate (~63 solar masses per year), challenging the belief that early galaxies were small and chaotic. This discovery provides crucial insights into early galaxy formation and cosmic evolution.

India to Install Indigenous Integrated Air Defence Weapon System for Delhi's Protection

India is set to deploy an indigenous Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) to protect Delhi NCR from evolving aerial threats such as missiles, drones, and hostile aircraft. The multilayered system integrates QRSAM, VSHORADS, and advanced command-and-control networks for rapid, coordinated interception. Accelerated after Pakistan's attempted targeting during Operation Sindoor in May 2025, the initiative strengthens national security and supports defence self-reliance. India shelved earlier plans to purchase the US-made NASAMS-II due to high costs, opting instead for a cost-efficient, Atmanirbhar Bharat-aligned solution.



Sports

Sunil Narine Hits 600 T20 Wickets Milestone

West Indies spinner Sunil Narine, 37, became the third bowler to reach 600 T20 wickets on December 4, 2025, dismissing Tom Abell for Abu Dhabi Knight Riders against Sharjah Warriorz in World ILT20. Honored with a special '600' jersey, his feat spans IPL, CPL, ILT20, and MLC, showcasing unmatched consistency, variations, and longevity over 15 years despite evolving batting tactics. Narine joins Rashid Khan and Dwayne Bravo in this elite club.

Cristiano Ronaldo Becomes Investor and Global Face for Perplexity

Cristiano Ronaldo has become an investor and brand ambassador for Perplexity AI, a startup founded by Indian-origin entrepreneur Aravind Srinivas. As part of the partnership, the company launched a "Perplexity x CR7" hub — a custom AI assistant allowing fans to explore Ronaldo's archive, ask questions, and relive his career highlights. With Ronaldo's global visibility, Perplexity aims to expand AI adoption and reach new audiences across multiple regions. The collaboration merges sports fame with AI innovation to broaden the platform's global footprint and fan engagement.

Yashasvi Jaiswal Scores Centuries Across All Formats

Yashasvi Jaiswal scored his maiden ODI century against South Africa on December 6, 2025, becoming the sixth Indian cricketer to score hundreds in Tests, ODIs, and T20Is. At 23, Jaiswal has already accumulated seven Test centuries and one T20I century. His achievement highlights his adaptability, technique, and rising stature in Indian cricket. This milestone cements his place as a key multi-format player and positions him for

significant roles in future white-ball tournaments, including the 2026 T20 World Cup.



Three-Year-Old Indian Child Becomes the Youngest Chess Player to Earn a FIDE Rating

Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha, aged three years, seven months and about twenty days, has become the youngest person in history to earn an official FIDE rapid rating. Representing Madhya Pradesh, he secured a rating of 1572 after defeating three FIDE-rated players in official tournaments — a requirement for acquiring rating. His achievement breaks the previous record held by another Indian child. The feat underscores exceptional talent and marks a new chapter in global chess history.

Thailand Hosts the Opening of the 33rd Southeast Asian Games

The 33rd SEA Games 2025 opened on 9 December in Thailand, with events held across Bangkok and Chonburi. Over 13,000 athletes from 11 Southeast Asian nations are participating, reflecting the rapid growth of the region's sports ecosystem. The Opening Ceremony at Rajamangala National Stadium marked the start of competitions across 50 medal sports, blending Olympic events with traditional regional disciplines. This edition highlights Southeast Asia's commitment to athletic excellence, cultural pride, and stronger regional unity.

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India Secures Five Medals at the 2025 FEI Asian Equestrian Championships

The FEI Asian Equestrian Championships 2025 took place in Pattaya, Thailand, bringing together over 80 riders from 13 nations. Hosted at the Thai Polo and Equestrian Club, this second edition showcased elite performances across Jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Para Dressage, and Endurance. Thailand and Hong Kong topped the medal chart with seven medals each, while India secured five, highlighted by Ashish Limaye's historic gold in Eventing and multiple silvers in Dressage. India's well-supported delegation and government recognition underscored the nation's rising equestrian profile. The event was organised by the FEI, the global governing body for equestrian sports.



GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa Clinches the FIDE Circuit 2025 Title

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa won the FIDE Circuit 2025 with 115.17 points, earning the only male qualification spot for the Candidates Tournament 2026. This will be his second consecutive Candidates appearance, reinforcing India's growing influence in world chess. The year-long Circuit ranked players based on their top seven performances, with Anish Giri and Nodirbek Abdusattorov finishing behind him. The 2026 Candidates, to be held in Cyprus, will determine the challenger for the World Chess Championship.

India will also see strong representation in the Women's Candidates through Divya Deshmukh, Koneru Humpy, and Vaishali Rameshbabu.

Miscellaneous

Luana Lara Youngest Self-Made Woman Billionaire

Brazilian entrepreneur Luana Lopes Lara, 29, claims title of world's youngest self-made female billionaire with \$1.3 billion from 12% stake in Kalshi, her prediction market platform valued at \$11 billion after 2025 funding surge. Transitioning from Bolshoi Ballet and MIT math-computer science degrees to Wall Street internships, she co-founded Kalshi in 2018, overcoming CFTC legal battles won in 2024 for regulated event trading on elections and economics.

World Soil Day 2025 Champions Urban Soil Health

World Soil Day on December 5, 2025, emphasizes 'Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities,' urging action against urban soil sealing from concrete expansion. Healthy urban soils boost resilience by absorbing floods, cooling heat islands, filtering pollutants, storing carbon, and supporting food via green spaces. Proposed in 2002 by soil scientists, UN-recognized since 2013, it calls for permeable designs, urban farming, composting, and awareness to foster sustainable cities amid rising populations projected to reach 68% urban by 2050.



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Simone Tata Dies at 95, Retail Pioneer

Simone Tata, stepmother of Ratan Tata, shaped India's beauty and retail industries over four decades before passing at 95 from Parkinson's complications. Arriving from Switzerland in 1953, she married into the Tata family, led Lakmé to dominance as chairperson from the 1980s, and founded Trent's Westside chain after its 1996 sale. Her strategic vision modernized consumer businesses, earning board roles in Tata Industries until 2006, leaving a profound enterprise legacy.



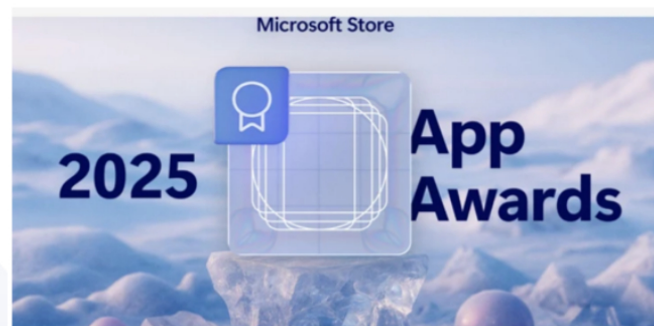
Victoria University Launches India Campus in Gurugram

Australia's Victoria University plans its first Indian campus in Gurugram by mid-2026, approved under NEP 2020 for affordable UG/PG programs in business, IT, and research. Modeled after Melbourne's City Tower, it introduces the innovative Block Model—intensive four-week single-subject focus—to boost engagement and success. The launch, marked by foundation stone-laying with Australian and Indian officials, enhances global education access, skill development, and bilateral ties without overseas costs.

Microsoft Store Awards 2025 honor top AI apps.

Microsoft announced winners of its 2025 Store Awards for outstanding Windows apps excelling in user experience, technical innovation, and productivity across AI,

developer categories. Standouts include Perplexity for multimodal search with voice and desktop integration, ChatGPT for quick Alt+Space access with file uploads and enterprise controls, Manus for secure web automation via multi-agent planning, and Invoice Maker for streamlined billing templates and sharing. Notion earned recognition for collaboration features, highlighting AI-driven tools boosting workflows, security, and the Windows ecosystem amid rising digital demands.



Trump receives the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize controversially.

Donald Trump was awarded the first FIFA Peace Prize by President Gianni Infantino on December 5, 2025, during the 2026 World Cup draw at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., for claimed roles in de-escalating conflicts like India-Pakistan tensions, Gaza, Congo, Armenia-Azerbaijan, and Thailand-Cambodia disputes. The new award from FIFA's social responsibility committee honors peace through sport, but faces backlash over exaggerated achievements, Trump's military record, partisan diplomacy, and FIFA's political alignments including Ivanka Trump's board role. Critics question selection transparency amid Trump's Nobel pursuits and FIFA's U.S.-centric World Cup ties.

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Mahaparinirvan Diwas honors Ambedkar's equality legacy.

India observes Mahaparinirvan Diwas on December 6, 2025, marking the 68th death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Constitution's architect who converted to Buddhism in 1956 to combat caste oppression, symbolizing ultimate liberation from samsara. Born in 1891 to a Dalit family, he overcame discrimination to earn degrees from Elphinstone, Columbia, and LSE, leading reforms like Mahad Satyagraha, Poona Pact, and founding parties for depressed classes. His enduring vision embedded equality, rights for SC/ST, secularism, industrialization, and land reforms in India's framework, with tributes at Mumbai's Chaitya Bhoomi featuring prayers, Constitution readings, and seminars.

IFFCO-TOKIO Collaborates with Cooperative Networks to Widen Micro Insurance Reach for Low Income Communities

The insurer announced a new partnership with various cooperative societies to extend micro-insurance offerings — including health, motor, and package policies — to underserved and low-income communities. The collaboration aims to align with regulatory goals for "Insurance for All by 2047," making coverage affordable and accessible to those with limited insurance penetration. Through this network, the company seeks to improve financial inclusion and provide basic protection for communities often overlooked by traditional insurance channels.



Jan Dhan Deposits Cross ₹2.75 Lakh Crore

Jan Dhan accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) have collectively crossed ₹2.75 lakh crore in deposits as of November 2025, marking a significant milestone in India's financial inclusion journey. With over 56 crore accounts, an average balance of ₹4,815, and strong rural (78.2%) and women's (50%) participation, the scheme continues to empower underserved populations. Beyond account creation, PMJDY enhances direct benefit transfers, promotes savings culture, and strengthens banking access in unbanked regions nationwide.

PM Modi Appeals for Citizens' Contribution on Armed Forces Flag Day

On December 7, 2025, India observed Armed Forces Flag Day, commemorating the sacrifices of soldiers and raising funds for war-disabled personnel, Veer Naris, and their families. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan paid tribute to the armed forces, emphasizing patriotism, courage, and service. Citizens were urged to contribute to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund to support welfare initiatives for veterans and dependents.

Anant Ambani Named Youngest Recipient of Global Humane Society's Animal Welfare Honour

Anant Ambani has become the youngest — and first Asian — recipient of the Global Humane Society's Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare. The honour recognises his leadership in founding Vantara, a large-scale wildlife conservation and rehabilitation centre. Vantara's work includes rescue, scientific care, rehabilitation and protection of threatened species, following rigorous welfare standards. The award ceremony in Washington, D.C. brought global conservation leaders together and spotlighted his

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evidence-based conservation commitments and animal-welfare achievements.



US FDA Approves the First AI System Designed to Speed Up Liver Disease Detection

The FDA has approved AIM-NASH, the first AI-based tool to support the evaluation of a serious fatty liver condition during drug trials. This cloud-driven system analyses liver biopsy images to measure fat deposits, inflammation, and scarring—key indicators of MASH. By providing standardised, automated scores, it reduces diagnostic variability, speeds up assessments, and lowers trial costs. AIM-NASH's qualification reflects growing confidence in AI-powered diagnostics and is expected to significantly streamline MASH drug development while maintaining human oversight for final clinical decisions.



TIME Names A'ja Wilson as the 2025 Athlete of the Year

TIME named A'ja Wilson the 2025 Athlete of the Year after one of the most dominant seasons in basketball history. She led the Las Vegas Aces to their third WNBA title in four years while becoming the first player in NBA or WNBA history to win a championship, MVP, Finals MVP, Defensive Player of the Year, and the scoring title in the same season. Beyond her accolades, Wilson's leadership, cultural influence, and advocacy for representation and equity solidified her status as a defining figure in women's sports and a global icon.

Alia Bhatt Receives the Golden Globe Horizon Award at the Red Sea Film Festival

Alia Bhatt was honoured with the Golden Globe Horizon Award at the Red Sea International Film Festival, highlighting her rising global influence in cinema. The festival showcased her journey from a promising newcomer to a leading Bollywood star through clips from films like Highway, Dear Zindagi, Gangubai Kathiawadi, and Brahmastra. Alia also unveiled a first look at her upcoming action film Alpha, the first female-led entry in the YRF Spy Universe, now set to release on April 17, 2026. The award further solidifies her growing international acclaim.