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NEWS IN SHORT

POLITY

On October 31, 2025, the Supreme Court of India upheld attorney–client privilege under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, ruling that lawyers cannot be compelled to reveal client communications except in limited cases involving illegality or crime. The Court linked this privilege to Articles 19(1)(g), 20(3), and 21, ensuring protection of professional and constitutional rights. It also mandated judicial oversight under BNSS 2023, reinforcing confidentiality as a cornerstone of justice and the rule of law.

The government approved the terms of reference (ToR) of the Eighth Central Pay Commission after having announced its formation in January this year. It will revise the salaries of nearly 50 lakh central government employees and allowances of 65 lakh pensioners, which will come into effect from January 1 next year.   The Eighth Central Pay Commission will be headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a former Supreme Court judge and the chairperson of the Press Council of India.   A Pay Commission is constituted by the central government approximately every decade to revise the salary structure of its employees and determine pension payments. Since 1947, seven Pay Commissions have been established.

The Supreme Court, responding to a Presidential Reference under Article 143, ruled that neither the President nor Governors can be subjected to fixed timelines for granting assent to Bills, as this would violate separation of powers. The Court also held that "deemed assent" has no constitutional basis. However, prolonged and unexplained delays may invite limited judicial review. The judgment clarifies the scope of Articles 111 and 200, reinforces federal balance, and preserves the autonomy of constitutional authorities.

The Audit Diwas is observed on November 16 as India's first auditor-general assumed the office on this day in 1860. Sir Edward Drummond took charge as the first Auditor General. After India became independent in 1947, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India was established as a constitutional authority with the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1950.

Justice Surya Kant was sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Known for a consensual judicial style, he has delivered key rulings, including the electoral bonds verdict, Pegasus surveillance probe, and scrutiny of sedition law. He previously upheld the Article 370 changes and contributed to resolving the farmers' protest. His tenure will focus on reducing Supreme Court pendency and overseeing the constitutionality of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) scheme.

Assam has become the second state after Uttarakhand to criminalise polygamy, with the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 passed and awaiting Presidential assent. The bill mandates up to seven years' imprisonment and fines for practicing polygamy, and up to ten years for hiding an existing marriage, with doubled penalties for repeat offences. It overrides previous allowances under Muslim personal law, while Sixth Schedule Autonomous Councils remain exempt unless they choose to adopt the law.

SCHEMES

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare achieved three Guinness World Records™ under the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA)—a nationwide preventive health campaign held from 17th September to 2nd October 2025. The campaign recorded 3.21 crore healthcare registrations, 9.94 lakh breast cancer screenings, and 1.25 lakh vital signs screenings. With 11 crore participants, it promoted women's health, nutrition, early detection, and family wellness, embodying the vision of "Healthy Woman, Empowered Family, Viksit Bharat."

The Union government has launched the third round of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI 1.2) scheme for specialty steel with an outlay of ₹6,322 crore. It aims to add 26 million tonnes of production capacity, reduce imports, and enhance self-reliance in high-grade steel for sectors like defence, aerospace, and energy. Focus areas include super alloys, stainless and coated steels, and titanium alloys. Earlier rounds attracted ₹43,874 crore investment and created over 13,000 jobs.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved new schemes worth ₹45,060 crore to

support exporters hit by high U.S. tariffs. The plan includes an Export Promotion Mission with ₹25,060 crore and a ₹20,000 crore credit guarantee expansion. Targeted sectors include textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products

The Ministry of External Affairs has rolled out the "upgraded version" of its Passport Seva Programme (PSP). The rollout included the Passport Seva Programme (PSP V2.0), the Global Passport Seva Programme and the e-passport for citizens in India and for the Indian citizens living abroad. The new and improved passport website and mobile app give users a better experience through features like auto-filled forms, simpler document uploads, and easy online payments.

The Union MeitY has notified the DPDP Rules 2025, implementing key provisions of the DPDP Act, 2023 to strengthen personal data protection. The rules establish a Data Protection Board with powers to impose graded penalties and follow a phased rollout over 12–18 months. They enhance citizens' control over data, mandate prompt breach notifications, and require strong security safeguards like encryption. Data must be erased within a year unless legally required. Penalties may reach ₹250 crore per breach.

The Ministry of Agriculture has released the draft Seeds Bill, 2025, to replace the Seeds Act, 1966, and modernise India's seed regulation. It mandates compulsory registration of all seed varieties except farmers' and export-only seeds, classifies offences as trivial, minor, or major, and introduces strict penalties including fines up to ₹30 lakh and imprisonment up to three years. The Bill aims to enhance seed quality, regulate imports, protect farmers, and revive earlier unsuccessful reform attempts.

The Union Cabinet has approved a six-year Export Promotion Mission (2025–31) with an outlay of ₹25,060 crore to counter rising global tariffs, including steep 50% US duties effective August 2025. Triggered by a 12% drop in US-bound exports, the mission consolidates key schemes, supports MSMEs, and enhances competitiveness through finance, compliance, branding, and logistics assistance. It includes Niryat Protsahan, Niryat Disha, and a ₹20,000-crore Credit Guarantee Scheme to strengthen export resilience.

SOCIAL ISSUES

On Kerala Piravi Day, Kerala became India's first state to declare itself free from extreme poverty under the Extreme Poverty Eradication Project (EPEP) launched in 2021. Using a multidimensional approach covering food, housing, income, health, and education, the state—via Kudumbashree and LSGIs—identified and rehabilitated over 64,000 families through phased interventions, sustainable livelihoods, and housing schemes. However, experts questioned the authenticity of data and survey transparency.

The Assam Cabinet has approved the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, which bans polygamy and proposes imprisonment of up to seven years for offenders. The Bill, to be tabled in the Winter Session starting November 25, exempts areas under the Bodoland, Karbi Anglong, and Dima Hasao Autonomous Councils. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said polygamy would become a cognizable offence, with compensation for victims. Opposition parties alleged the move targets Muslims ahead of next year's elections.

The two-day National Urban Conclave was organised at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, on 8-9 November 2025. It brings over participants that including policymakers, urban planners, experts, and stakeholders, to deliberate on the theme "Sustainable Urban Development and Governance" through intensive brainstorming sessions across six thematic areas. During the inaugural session, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, launched the Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP), the Swachh Bharat Mission – Knowledge Management Unit (KMU), and Urban Invest Window (UiWIN).

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) will soon release black spot data for 2023 and 2024 to curb road accidents and fatalities. The data is based on the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) and Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) systems, which record real-time accident information from state police. A 500-metre stretch is classified as a black spot if it reports five serious accidents or 10 deaths in three years. The 2020–22 analysis identified 1,330 critical stretches nationwide.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has released the India AI Governance Guidelines, advocating a "hands-off" regulatory approach that balances innovation with responsibility. Drafted by a panel led by Prof. Balaraman Ravindran (IIT Madras), the report lays out seven principles including trust, equity, and responsible innovation. It recommends expanding AI infrastructure via digital public infrastructure, promoting skill development, and ensuring flexible regulation. The framework shifts focus from risk aversion to innovation-driven governance without immediate AI legislation.

On World Public Transport Day, the Orbit Wallet RuPay prepaid card was launched for employees of Electronics City Industries' Association (ELCIA) member firms to promote sustainable commuting. The National Common Mobility Card-compliant card enables seamless payments for metro, bus, and digital transactions. Developed under the Station Access and Mobility Program (STAMP) by Toyota Mobility Foundation, WRI India, and ELCIA, it offers incentives up to ₹1,500 for metro use. The initiative aims to encourage public transport adoption and reduce private vehicle dependence.

The Kattakkada Assembly constituency in Kerala has set up menstrual restrooms in all 16 government and aided high schools and higher secondary schools, offering beds, chairs, hot water bags, a napkin vending machine and an incinerator. Launched by MLA I B Satheesh under the Oppam women's empowerment initiative, the rooms support students and teachers experiencing menstrual discomfort. The Oppam project also includes women's toilets, health

clubs, counselling centres and other initiatives to make the constituency more women-friendly.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched two digital applications—Sahakar Digi Pay and Sahakar Digi Loan—at Co-Op Kumbh 2025 organised by NAFCUB. The initiative aims to modernise and digitise Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). The government plans to set up one UCB in every city with a population above two lakh within five years. NPAs in UCBs have declined from 2.8% to 0.6%. Policy reforms aim to strengthen governance, credit access, and cooperative-based development.

The Union government launched new digital platforms to improve transparency and efficiency in India's food security system. The AI-driven ASHA platform enables multilingual feedback from PDS beneficiaries and aims to cover 20 lakh citizens monthly by 2026. Additional platforms—Bhandaran 360, Smart EXIM Warehouse, and FCI's Anna Darpan—modernise warehousing and logistics. The Centre also removed 2.25 crore ineligible ration beneficiaries to ensure free grains reach genuine households.

The Centre has implemented all four Labour Codes, replacing 29 outdated laws to simplify India's labour framework. The Codes—on Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security, and Occupational Safety—aim to expand social security, formalise employment, and strengthen worker protection. Key reforms include recognition of gig workers, pan-India ESIC coverage, fixed-term employment with full benefits, national floor wage, simpler compliance rules, and enhanced safety and rights for women workers. The government will now frame detailed rules with State coordination.

ECONOMY

Mid-tier IT firms such as LTIMindtree, Coforge, Persistent Systems, and Mphasis outperformed larger peers in Q2 FY26, showing strong growth and resilience. These companies are rapidly enhancing their AI infrastructure to capture a share of the booming AI market. LTIMindtree, Coforge, and Persistent reported double-digit profit growth, with major deal wins and expanding AI-led offerings. Experts said mid-sized firms' agility, AI specialization, and client focus give them an edge over Tier-1 players, especially in talent hiring and innovation.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) released its report on "Asset Recovery Guidance and Best Practices", commending India's Enforcement Directorate (ED) for effective asset recovery under the PMLA (2002) and Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (2018). India's use of blockchain analytics and global cooperation was highlighted as a model practice. However, FATF noted challenges like judicial delays, coordination barriers, and data gaps, recommending stronger forensic capacities, data systems, and cross-border collaboration to improve recovery efficiency.

SEBI has issued a public warning against digital gold and e-gold investments, citing their unregulated status and rising risks amid increasing gold prices. Digital gold allows online

purchases backed by stored physical gold and often uses blockchain for transparency and fractional ownership. However, it is not regulated by SEBI or RBI, leaving investors exposed to counterparty, operational, and default risks, with no investor protection. SEBI advises choosing regulated options like Gold ETFs, Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs), and Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs).

Ambaji white marble from Gujarat has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, announced during the Tribal Business Conclave in New Delhi. The GI was granted by the Geographical Indications Registry under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, based on an application by the Ambaji Marbles Quarry and Factory Association in Banaskantha. Known for its pure white shine, high durability and calcium-rich composition, Ambaji marble holds cultural significance and is expected to boost local livelihoods and exports.

ENVIRONMENT

India's horticulture sector is set for a technological revolution through HortiRoad2India, a Dutch-led public–private partnership promoting AI-driven, climate-resilient farming. The project introduces mid- and high-tech greenhouses for crops like strawberries, tomatoes, and microgreens—ensuring 96% water savings and 30× higher yields without pesticides. Cluster-based models near cities (Bengaluru, Chennai, Punjab) will reduce post-harvest losses. Supported by Dutch finance and Indian banks, the initiative promotes sustainable, export-oriented horticulture and farmer empowerment.

In what officials described as the first such case reported from any Indian zoo, Shankar, the lone African elephant at the National Zoological Park in Delhi, died in September due to the rare rodent-borne virus — encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV). The findings have been revealed in an autopsy report from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), based out of Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. The 29-year-old bull elephant — brought from Zimbabwe in November 1998 — was a diplomatic gift to former President of India Shankar Dayal Sharma. After spending 13 years in solitary confinement, the elephant died on September 17 in its enclosure.

Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai have joined the Cool Cities Accelerator, a global coalition of 33 cities announced at the C40 World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro to combat urban heat. The initiative aims to safeguard residents from extreme heat through urban redesign, cooling infrastructure, and resilient planning by 2030. Supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, ClimateWorks, and others, it focuses on heat leadership, early warning systems, green spaces, and sustainable infrastructure to reduce heat-related deaths.

In Punjab, stubble-burning in three major districts—Amritsar, Taran Taran, and Ferozpur—was about 20% lower this year compared to last, with 2.46 lakh hectares burnt versus 3.15 lakh hectares in 2024, according to satellite data. Despite a sharp rise in fire counts from October 28 to

November 4, overall incidents remain below last year's levels. Early measures over the past five years appear effective, though peak burning historically occurs in the first half of November.

India joined the Brazil-led Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF) as an observer in November 2025. The USD 125 billion initiative rewards tropical nations for conserving and restoring forests through performance-based payments funded by sovereign and institutional investors. It earmarks 20% of funds for Indigenous and local communities, excluding high-income nations. Unlike REDD+, TFFF is a long-term, self-financing and South-South cooperative model, valuing ecosystem services and promoting climate resilience in tropical regions.

The Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026, released by Germanwatch at COP30 in Belem, ranks India 9th among nations most affected by climate disasters (1995–2024). Over 8.32 lakh global deaths were recorded, with India accounting for 80,000 and USD 170 billion in losses from 430 extreme events. Global South nations remain most vulnerable due to low adaptive capacity. India's resilience efforts include CDRI, IRIS, and IRAF. WMO's COP30 update warns 2025 could be among the warmest years, with temperatures 1.42°C above pre-industrial levels.

A 2025 IUCN Congress report warns of a severe decline in India's dugong populations due to fishing-net entanglement, pollution, toxic contamination and rapid seagrass loss. Survival is most uncertain in the Gulf of Kutch and declining in Palk Bay and the Andamans. Dugongs, key maintainers of seagrass ecosystems, face rising fisheries-related mortality. India has launched a Task Force, a National Dugong Recovery Programme, and created the Palk Bay Conservation Reserve to restore habitats and regulate coastal pressures.

COP30 in Belém, Brazil, ended with negotiations extending past deadlines as fossil fuel phase-out and climate finance remained unresolved. Key outcomes included the Belem Health Action Plan, the USD 125-billion Tropical Forests Forever Facility, and the Belem 4X Pledge for scaling sustainable fuels. However, the Belem Political Agreement saw deadlock on finance, trade measures, transparency, and a fossil fuel roadmap. New initiatives like OPIN, the Global Ethical Stocktake, and the NAP Implementation Alliance were launched. Türkiye will host COP31.

SCIENCE

ISRO successfully launched its heaviest communication satellite, CMS-03 (4,410 kg), aboard LVM3-M5 ("Bahubali") from Sriharikota. The mission marked ISRO's 103rd launch and achieved precise insertion into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. Notably, the cryogenic engine's thrust chamber was reignited mid-flight, showcasing technological advancement. CMS-03 will provide multi-band communication coverage for 15 years, replacing GSAT-7, and signifies India's growing self-reliance in heavy-lift and cryogenic propulsion technology.

Researchers at IISc's Department of Materials Engineering have developed a rapid, eco-friendly method to upcycle nylon 66 from discarded fishing nets and automotive parts. Led by Prof. Suryasarathi Bose, the team used mechanical recycling with melamine and a zinc-based catalyst to create reusable, 3D-printable materials. The process enables production of items like boat hulls and park benches, offering coastal employment and reducing marine plastic pollution.

Lakshya, a student-built rocket from R.V. College of Engineering's Team Antariksh, won the IN-SPACe Model Rocketry Competition 2024–25 held in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh. The team's rocket successfully launched a one-kilogram CAN-size satellite to 1,000 metres and recovered both components safely. Competing against 31 teams, the 10-member RVCE group designed both the rocket and CANSAT, showcasing precise execution and hands-on aerospace engineering excellence.

New research has revealed that Escherichia coli (E. coli), a bacterium that normally lives in the human gut, can spread through populations at a rate comparable to the swine flu. Researchers from the Wellcome Sanger Institute, the University of Oslo, the University of Helsinki, Aalto University in Finland, and their collaborators have been able to estimate how efficiently one person can pass gut bacteria to others. This kind of calculation, which measures transmission rates, has previously been possible mainly for viruses.

Google's Project Suncatcher explores AI-powered, solar-driven data centres in space, marking a leap toward space-based computing. It aims to deploy solar-powered satellites as interconnected AI nodes using free-space optical communication. Offering continuous solar energy, it reduces Earth's environmental load and bypasses regulatory hurdles. Challenges include cooling, radiation protection, and space debris. Using advanced Tensor Processing Units (TPUs), the project links AI, renewable energy, and space technology — aligning with UPSC Science & Tech themes.

According to the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2025, India accounts for 25% of global TB cases and remains the world's highest-burden country. The incidence rate has reduced to 187 per lakh, still far from the 2025 target of 77. TB mortality stands at 21 per lakh, thrice the national goal. India also bears 32% of global drug-resistant TB. Treatment coverage has improved to 92%, yet drug resistance and under-reporting continue to hinder India's 2025 elimination target.

A new study in Nature Microbiology reports a genetically modified Metarhizium fungus that can attract and kill mosquitoes far more effectively than existing tools. The fungus, enhanced with a pine gene, continuously produces longifolene—a sweet floral scent that lures mosquitoes. Once they land, fungal spores infect and kill them rapidly, achieving up to 90–100% mortality. This affordable, scalable and eco-friendly innovation offers a powerful alternative to

chemical insecticides and strengthens biological control strategies against malaria and dengue.

UNESCO has introduced the first global ethical framework for neurotechnology as AI-driven brain-computer interfaces expand. The guidelines aim to protect human rights, prevent misuse of brain data, and ensure responsible innovation. Key principles include autonomy, mental privacy, non-discrimination, and safeguarding vulnerable groups. The framework bans manipulative political or commercial use of neurodata and forced neurotests. It promotes informed consent, open science, ethics-by-design, and balanced IP rules to support safe, equitable, and sustainable neurotechnology.

India has achieved a major scientific breakthrough with CSIR–IGIB developing an indigenous CRISPR-based gene-editing tool, now transferred to the Serum Institute of India. Its first application, Birsa-101, offers a cost-effective therapy for sickle cell disease by correcting the root genetic mutation. Phase I trials with AIIMS begin next year, followed by SII-led Phase II & III trials. The innovation supports India's target of eliminating sickle cell disease by 2047 and strengthens indigenous biotech capacity.

Sentinel-6B, a joint NASA–NOAA–ESA satellite, was launched on 17 November 2025 from Vandenberg Space Force Base. As the second mission in the Sentinel-6 series, it carries six instruments to measure sea-level rise, ocean temperature, currents, and atmospheric conditions. Orbiting Earth every 112 minutes, it extends the global altimetry record begun in the 1990s. Its high-precision ocean data will improve climate monitoring, cyclone forecasting, maritime security, and support India's coastal and monsoon predictions.

DEFENCE

The tri-services exercise Trishul 2025 led by the Indian Navy, involving the Army and Air Force started across Rajasthan, Gujarat, and the northern Arabian Sea. Coordinated by the Western Naval Command, the 12-day drill will see participation from over 20,000 personnel, tanks, warships, and aircraft, including Rafales and Sukhoi-30MKIs. Supported by the Coast Guard, BSF, and central agencies, Trishul aims to boost joint operations, interoperability, and network integration, focusing on amphibious, cyber, and electronic warfare, while showcasing indigenous defence capabilities to address evolving security challenges.

The Malabar Naval Exercise 2025 between India, the US, Japan, and Australia has begun in Guam, Northern Pacific. Originating in 1992 as a bilateral drill between India and the US, it now serves as a major QUAD naval engagement. The exercise aims to enhance joint maritime security, interoperability, and defence cooperation among member nations amid Indo-Pacific challenges. INS Sahyadri represents India in this year's edition.

The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mahe, the first Mahe-class Shallow Water Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) craft, enhancing India's littoral security and undersea threat detection. Built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd under a 2019 contract, it marks a major push in naval indigenisation. Equipped with advanced ASW sensors, torpedoes, and high-speed agility, INS Mahe replaces the Abhay-class and supports rapid coastal patrols. Commissioned on 24 November 2025, it symbolises speed and precision through its cheetah mascot and Urumi crest.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Russia launched its new nuclear-powered submarine Khabarovsk, designed to carry the "Poseidon" nuclear drone, described in reports as a doomsday weapon able to devastate coastal areas. Built by Rubin design bureau, Khabarovsk will deploy modern underwater robotic systems and weapons.

India and the United States have signed a 10-year Framework for the US–India Major Defence Partnership at the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting–Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Malaysia. The pact, inked by Rajnath Singh and Pete Hegseth, aims to enhance joint research, co-production, and defence technology sharing. It builds on earlier foundational agreements—LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018), BECA (2020), and the recent SOSA (2024)—marking deeper strategic and operational convergence between both nations.

Almost 20 months after the opening of a Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi, another cultural landmark is in the offing — an India House in the capital of the UAE, which as per plan may come up in a couple of years. It will serve as the centre of strengthening ties in art and culture, student exchanges and to highlight shared history. The Gulf nation is also set to declare yoga as a competitive sport.

The Maharashtra government has signed a Letter of Intent with Elon Musk's Starlink, becoming the first Indian state to partner with the company for satellite-based internet services. The collaboration, pending central approvals, aims to provide high-speed connectivity to remote areas, including tribal schools, health centres, and disaster units. It will also enhance digital access along major infrastructure corridors and support education, telemedicine, and coastal security networks.

US President Donald Trump said that Kazakhstan will join the Abraham Accords to normalize relations between Israel and Muslim-majority nations. The Abraham Accords are a series of agreements to normalise the relationship between Israel and Arab countries. These were signed in September 2020. The UAE and Bahrain became the first Arab countries to formally recognise Israel since 1994.

India has withdrawn from the Ayni airbase in Tajikistan, its only full-fledged overseas military base, marking a strategic shift in Central Asia. Built and renovated by India since 2002 at a cost of $80 million, Ayni gave India proximity to Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor—bordering PoK and China's Xinjiang—and leverage in a region influenced by Russia and China. India's withdrawal in 2022 followed Tajik reluctance to renew the lease, reportedly under Russian and Chinese

pressure. The move reduces India's Central Asian footprint, though new projects like Agaléga in Mauritius expand its Indian Ocean presence.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bhutan to mark the 70th birthday of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the architect of modern Bhutan. The visit strengthens India's Neighbourhood First Policy and reaffirms deep strategic ties. India-Bhutan relations—rooted in the 1949 Treaty and modernised in 2007—emphasise equal partnership, security cooperation, and hydropower development. King Wangchuck's legacy includes transitioning Bhutan to democracy, economic reforms, and strong bilateral engagement. Modi inaugurated the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II project and advanced cultural and energy cooperation.

The Belem Action Plan for Health and Climate Adaptation, launched at COP30 in Brazil, brings together 80 countries and organisations to strengthen health-system resilience against climate impacts. Based on the 2025 Lancet Countdown, it addresses rising deaths from heat, smoke and extreme weather. A $300-million pledge from the Climate and Health Funders Coalition supports implementation. With widening global adaptation finance gaps, India needs $643 billion by 2030 despite strong domestic spending.

India has signed its first structured one-year contract to import 2.2 MTPA of LPG from the US, diversifying away from heavy dependence on West Asian suppliers. Public sector refiners awarded contracts to major US and European companies to strengthen supply security and support LPG penetration in rural areas. The deal comes amid tariff-related trade tensions, declining Indian exports to the US, and ongoing negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement, while enhancing India–US energy cooperation.

India and Indonesia advanced discussions on the long-pending BrahMos missile deal, though the contract may take more time. During Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's meeting with his Indonesian counterpart, Jakarta backed creating a joint committee for technology transfer, R&D and supply-chain cooperation. Indonesia also visited the BrahMos facility. Both nations reaffirmed commitment to a free and peaceful Indo-Pacific and agreed to deepen collaboration in maritime security and cyber resilience, with India's submarine expertise seen as valuable for Indonesia's defence plans.

UK data shows net migration has dropped sharply, driven by a rise in departures by non-EU nationals, especially Indians. About 74,000 Indians left the UK in the year ending June 2025, the highest among all nationalities, with most departing after study or work visas. Indians also remain the largest group arriving for study and work. The ONS attributes the fall in net migration to fewer non-EU arrivals, fewer dependants and rising emigration, prompting the UK government to tighten immigration rules.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

India's women's cricket team made history by winning the ODI World Cup, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in Navi Mumbai. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to lift the global trophy, joining Kapil Dev, Dhoni, and Rohit Sharma as World Cup–winning captains. Shafali Verma starred with 87 runs and two key wickets, while Deepti Sharma scored 58 and claimed five wickets. India avenged their earlier loss to South Africa to claim a memorable home triumph.

Kerala, which had launched the first government-controlled app-based taxi service in the country, is all set to experiment with a new integrated multimodal online transport app, enabling seamless travel for passengers across water metro, metro, bus, auto, and taxis in the State.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated special commemorative coins and postage stamps in New Delhi to celebrate 150 years of "Vande Mataram". Written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1882, the song became a symbol of India's freedom movement and was first sung publicly by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896. Declared the National Song in 1950, the year-long celebration includes mass recitals, cultural events, and public participation, reaffirming India's unity and patriotism.

The annual Phool Waalon Ki Sair (Procession of Florists) in Mehrauli, Delhi, symbolising Hindu-Muslim harmony, has been allowed at its traditional venue, Aam Bagh. During the week-long event, floral offerings — chaadar at the Dargah of Khwaja Bakhtiyar Kaki and pankha at the Yogmaya Temple — mark shared devotion. Originating in 1811, it began when Mumtaz Mahal Begum fulfilled her vow after her son, Prince Mirza Jahangir, was released from exile. Revived in 1962 by Jawaharlal Nehru, it continues as a symbol of syncretic culture.

National Legal Services Day is observed annually on November 9. This day serves as a platform to promote legal awareness and ensure access to justice for all citizens, especially those from marginalised communities. National Legal Services Day, started in 1995 by the Supreme Court of India, aims to provide free legal help and support to the weaker sections of society. The 9th of November is celebrated annually by all Legal Services Authorities as "Legal Services Day" in accordance with the call made by Chief Justice A.S. Anand in the First Annual Meet.

Hungarian-British author David Szalay has been named the winner of the 2025 Booker Prize for his novel Flesh

Chinese swimming sensation Yu Zidi, just 13, stunned the world with an Asian record of 2:07.41 in the women's 200m individual medley at the China National Games in Shenzhen. Her time beat Ye Shiwen's 2012 Olympic mark and ranks as the ninth fastest ever and second fastest globally this year. The Hebei schoolgirl improved her personal best by nearly two seconds, cementing her status as a future Olympic star and major international contender.

The Infosys Science Foundation announced the Infosys Prize 2025 across six fields: Engineering & Computer Science, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Economics. Each laureate receives a gold medal, citation, and USD 1 lakh. Winners include Dr. Anjana Badrinarayanan for DNA-repair research, Dr. Andrew Ollett for Prakrit studies, Dr. Nikhil Agarwal for market design, Dr. Sabyasachi Mukherjee for conformal dynamics, Dr. Sushant Sachdeva for optimization algorithms, and Dr. Karthish Manthiram for electrochemistry.

World Tuberculosis Day, observed on March 24 every year, aims to increase public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and the numerous efforts being taken to eliminate the disease. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease. The theme of this year is "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver", highlights the importance of stronger commitments and action, especially against rising drug-resistant TB.

November 15 is the birth anniversary of the tribal icon Birsa Munda, who was born on this date in 1875. Since 2021, his birthday has been celebrated as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.' Known as "Dharti Aba" ("Father of the Earth"), Birsa organised the "Ulgulan" or the Munda Rebellion against British oppression in the late 1890s.

November 16 is observed as the National Press Day to celebrate the role of a free and responsible press in India. The day commemorates the establishment of the Press Council of India, which began its operations on this day in 1966. This year's theme focuses on safeguarding press credibility amidst rising misinformation, highlighting the growing importance of accurate and ethical reporting.

The annual Malabar naval exercise between the navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan kicked off on November 12 in the Northern Pacific. Exercise Malabar was established as an annual bilateral training activity between India and the United States in 1992. Japan and Australia first participated in 2007, and Japan joined the naval exercise in 2015 as a permanent member, and Malabar became a trilateral exercise. In 2020, for the first time in over a decade, the exercise saw the participation of all four Quad members.

Anish Bhanwala became the first Indian shooter to ever win a medal in the men's 25m rapid fire event at the World Championships with a silver in the final at Cairo, Egypt.

Aravind Yashavant Patil, a farmer from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, won this year's National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA), constituted by the Union Animal Husbandry Ministry, for best dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the 8th edition of the air exercise 'Garuda 25' with the French Air and Space Force (FASF) at Mont-de-Marsan, France.

India will induct women soldiers into the Territorial Army for the first time, advancing gender inclusion in defence. The move aligns with global momentum after the 2025 Conference on Women Peacekeepers in New Delhi, marking 25 years of UNSC Resolution 1325. India's peacekeeping legacy includes early women deployments in Congo and the 2007 all-female unit in Liberia. Despite strong global leadership, domestic gaps persist, demanding structural reforms to ensure meaningful participation.

November 7, 2025 marks 100 years of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), founded in 1925 as India's first hockey governing body. The centenary will feature 1,400 matches across 550 districts, celebrating the sport's cultural legacy. India's hockey journey began through British influence, leading to Olympic dominance with 13 medals, including the first gold in 1928 and the latest bronze in Paris 2024. Government schemes like TOPS, Khelo India, ASMITA League, and SAI programs continue to support hockey's growth.

Infosys Foundation announced the winners of the fourth Aarohan Social Innovation Awards, recognising breakthroughs in Education, Healthcare, and Environmental Sustainability. Bengaluru innovators Rajesh A Rao, Ravindra S Rao, and Deepa L B Rajeev won for "Connecting the Dots," a STEM and spoken-English learning program. Delhi's Chitranjan and Robin Singh were awarded for "CLUIX C012," a portable water-quality analyser. Pune's Rahul Bakare and Vinit Phadnis won for "Borecharger." Each winner receives Rs 50 lakh.

A UNDESA report highlights accelerating global urbanisation, with cities now hosting 45% of 8.2 billion people and absorbing two-thirds of future population growth by 2050. India features prominently, with 12 of the world's 50 most densely populated cities and five megacities, including Delhi and Mumbai. Mumbai is the densest globally. Jakarta, Dhaka and Tokyo remain the largest metro regions. The report, released ahead of COP30, stresses sustainable, climate-aligned urbanisation as seven countries will drive most urban growth.

In a historic achievement, researchers from IISc Bengaluru and NCBS won all three categories of the inaugural Tata Transformation Prize, chosen from 212 national nominations. Each awardee receives ₹2 crore to scale innovations in food security, sustainability, and healthcare. Dr P.V. Shivaprasad (NCBS) won for climate-resilient rice using epigenetic engineering. Dr B. Gopal (IISc) was recognised for an AI-driven green biomanufacturing platform. Dr A. Ghosh (IISc) won for magnetic nanorobots enabling precise, affordable cancer therapy.

Lakshya Sen ended a difficult season by winning his first title of 2025, beating Japan's Yushi Tanaka 21-15, 21-11 in the Australian Open final in Sydney. The 24-year-old, coming off injuries and a post-Olympics slump, dominated the 38-minute Super 500 clash and celebrated with his fingers in his ears. This is his first top-tier crown since the 2024 Canada

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Open. Sen became the second Indian to win a BWF World Tour title this year, after Ayush Shetty.

Michelle Bachelet, Chile's first and only woman President and former UN Human Rights chief, received the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development. A two-term President of Chile (2006–2010 and 2014–2018), Bachelet was honoured for her global leadership and public service. The award carries Rs 10 million and a trophy made of Haematite Jasper, the ancient, exceptionally hard stone also used at Indira Gandhi's samadhi at Shakti Sthala, New Delhi, estimated to be 2,000 million years old.

India won the inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup after defeating Nepal by seven wickets in the final played at the P Sara Oval in Colombo.

Rohit Sharma, part of both of India's Men's T20 World Cup wins (in 2007 and 2024) and the only player to feature in all nine editions, was unveiled as the Brand Ambassador for the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, becoming the first active international cricketer to hold such an ICC role.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a revised draft of the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme, originally launched in October 2023 to evaluate crash safety under AIS-197. Bharat NCAP assigns star ratings based on crash tests, with five stars indicating the highest safety performance.

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