
CURRENT AFFAIRS
NOVEMBER 2024

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NATIONAL NEWS

Himachal Pradesh demands the return of the Shanan Hydropower Project from Punjab

- In 1925, during the British era, Punjab was granted a lease for the 110-MW Shanan Hydropower Project situated in Jogindernagar, Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh. It is located on the Uhl River, a tributary of the Beas River.
- The lease agreement was formalised between Raja Joginder Bahadur, the ruler of Mandi at the time, and Col BC Batty, who represented the British government and served as the Chief Engineer of Punjab.
- The Punjab government has been at loggerheads with Himachal over staking a claim to the 110-MW project following the expiry of a 99-year lease period.
- The central government ordered that the status quo be maintained for the Shanan Hydropower Project, over which Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have made competing claims.

Key Points

Punjab's Chief Minister	—	Bhagwant Mann
Himachal Pradesh's Chief Minister	—	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla – India's 56th tiger reserve

- The Chhattisgarh government notified the Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla in the state as India's 56th tiger reserve.
- It is the fourth tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh after Achanakmar, Indravati and Udanti Sitanadi. The total area of the new tiger reserve is 2,829.387 sq km, making it the third largest tiger reserve in India.
- It falls between two other important tiger reserves located in Bandhavgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Palamau, Jharkhand.
- The reserve is expected to help Chhattisgarh improve its tiger population, which has been dwindling in recent years. According to the last official tiger status report, the state's tiger population fell from 46 in 2014 to 17 in 2022.

Bengaluru unveils first digital population clock at ISEC

- Bengaluru will debut its first digital population clock at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), showcasing real-time population estimates for Karnataka and India.

- This initiative, a collaboration between ISEC and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), aims to increase awareness of population dynamics and provide accurate data for research.
- The clock updates Karnataka's population estimate every minute and 10 seconds, while India's total ticks up every two seconds. Its precision is maintained through a satellite connection, allowing it to function independently with fully integrated components.

Key Points

ISEC Director	—	Prof. D. Rajasekhar
Union Minister of Health and Welfare	—	JP Nadda

Centre doubles stubble burning penalty

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change doubled the fines on stubble burning to combat the deteriorating air quality in Delhi and surrounding regions.
- The updated penalties, introduced under the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act of 2021, impose a ₹5,000 fine on farmers with less than two acres, ₹10,000 on those between two and five acres, and ₹30,000 for larger landholders engaging in the practice.
- The penalties introduced through the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (Imposition, Collection, and Utilisation of Environmental Compensation for Stubble Burning) Amendment Rules, 2024, outline new measures, with pollution control boards and the CAQM designated to handle complaints and investigations.
- The rules apply to the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Punjab and Haryana, and the National Capital Region areas of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	—	Bhupender Yadav
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PM Modi unveils tribal welfare projects on Birsa Munda's birth anniversary in Bihar

- PM Modi launched tribal welfare projects worth more than ₹6,000 crores on the 150th birth anniversary of legendary freedom fighter Birsa Munda.

- Munda's birth anniversary will be celebrated as 'Janjaatiya Gaurav Divas' (the day of glory for tribals).
- He unveiled a commemorative coin and postal stamp in honour of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- The projects aimed at uplifting tribal communities and improving infrastructure in rural and remote areas of the region.

Key Points

Chief Minister of Bihar — Nitish Kumar

Supreme Court issues landmark guidelines to curb illegal property demolitions

- The Supreme Court laid down guidelines to curb the demolition of people's homes and private properties by the government "only on the grounds that they are accused of a crime".
- A Bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan held that such actions violate the rights of the accused, including the presumption of innocence, unfairly punish other tenants who have not been accused of any wrongdoing and breach of the right to shelter under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- The guidelines include a mandatory 15-day notice period for the tenants to either challenge the order or attend to their affairs before being evicted. The notice must specify the reasons for demolition and the date of hearing to challenge the action.

Key Points

Chief Justice of India — Sanjiv Khanna

Supreme Court overturns 1967 ruling on AMU's minority status

- A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court overruled by a 4:3 majority in a 1967 judgment by a five-judge bench in the Azeez Basha case, which had declared that Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) was not a minority institution as it was established by govt in 1920 and not by the minority community.
- The issue of whether AMU is a minority institution as per Article 30 of the Constitution is now left to be decided by a regular bench based on this view of the majority.

IMD launches dedicated weather forecast for Sabarimala pilgrimage

- For the first time in the history of the Sabarimala pilgrimage, the India Meteorological Department

(IMD) has introduced a localised weather forecasting system, similar to those for the Amarnath and Char Dham yatras.

- Its regional center has installed three rain gauges at Sannidhanam, Pamba and Nilakkal to issue three-day weather forecasts. These forecasts will soon be upgraded to real-time weather bulletins, known as "nowcasts".
- The initiative follows a request from the Pathanamthitta district administration, which sought real-time weather updates for Sabarimala due to the region's susceptibility to extreme rainfall.

Key Points

IMD's Headquarters — New Delhi

Director General — Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

Ministry of Coal launches Mine Opening Permission module on Single Window Clearance System (SWCS) portal

- In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat and a digitally enabled economy, the Ministry of Coal has launched the Mine Opening Permission module on the SWCS portal.
- SWCS provides a unified platform for obtaining all necessary clearances and approvals required to operationalise coal mines.
- The Mine Opening Permission module, a key feature, simplifies and accelerates the process of securing permission to start new mines or open new coal seams. By allowing online applications and real-time tracking, the platform eliminates manual paperwork, reduces processing time, and enhances transparency and ensures efficiency. This streamlined approach fosters a more efficient, investment-friendly environment in the coal industry.

Key Points

Union Minister of Coal — G. Kishan Reddy

President Droupadi Murmu unveils Sanskrit and Maithili translations of the Indian Constitution

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 75th-anniversary celebrations of the adoption of the Constitution of India as "Samvidhan Diwas" at the old Parliament building, officially known as Samvidhan Sadan.
- On this occasion, she released a commemorative coin and postage stamps dedicated to the milestone.

- She also unveiled the first Sanskrit copy of the Constitution and its Maithili version.
- She also released two books titled 'Making of the Constitution of India: A Glimpse' and 'Making of the Constitution of India & Its Glorious Journey'.

Key Points

Samvidhan Diwas/ Constitution Day/ National Law Day	—	November 26
Father of the Indian Constitution	—	Dr. BR Ambedkar

PM Modi gifts Kolhapur's Silofar Panchamrit Kalash to Nigerian President

- PM Modi gifted the magnificent Silofar Panchamrit Kalash to Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.
- This 'kalash' is made from high-quality silver, and shaped with skill and precision. It features elegant engravings typical of Kolhapur's renowned metalwork, with motifs that often include floral patterns, deities and traditional designs.
- It is a stunning example of traditional craftsmanship from Kolhapur in Maharashtra.
- The handle of the 'Kalash' and the lid are crafted to provide ease of use during religious ceremonies, where 'panchamrit' – a sacred mixture of milk, curd, ghee, honey and sugar – is served.
- PM Modi arrived in the Nigerian capital Abuja on the first trip to Nigeria by an Indian Prime Minister after a gap of 17 years.

UN lists Dhudmaras village as a tourism destination

- Dhudmaras, located within the Kanger Valley National Park, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh has gained international recognition after being chosen by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) as one of its best tourism villages.
- It is among 20 villages selected from 60 nations globally for this esteemed program, showcasing its sustainable tourism capabilities.
- The UNWTO's upgradation program will provide Dhudmaras with assistance to strengthen its tourism facilities, showcase its cultural legacy and enhance villagers' living standards.

Key Points

Headquarters UNWTO	—	Madrid, Spain
Secretary General	—	Zurab Pololikashvili

IIT Ropar develops affordable innovation in Knee Rehabilitation Therapy

- In a significant breakthrough for post-surgical knee rehabilitation, researchers at IIT Ropar have unveiled an innovative solution to make Continuous Passive Motion (CPM) therapy which is more accessible and affordable.
- The team at IIT Ropar has developed a Completely Mechanical Passive Motion Machine for Knee Rehabilitation, which has been awarded a patent (No. 553407).
- Unlike traditional motorised CPM machines, which are expensive and depend on electricity, the newly developed device is entirely mechanical. It utilises a piston and pulley system, which stores air as the user pulls a handle, enabling smooth and controlled motion to aid in knee rehabilitation.
- This simple yet effective design eliminates the need for electricity, batteries, or motors, making it both lightweight and portable.

IIT Madras, ISRO join forces to establish a research center for studying spacecraft & launch vehicle thermal management

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has joined hands with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to establish a Centre of Excellence for research in 'Fluid and Thermal Sciences'.
- ISRO will provide seed funding of ₹1.84 Crore to establish this center. The center will act as a nodal center for spacecraft and launch vehicle-related thermal management research activities of ISRO. Additionally, thermal problems related to the design, analysis and testing of various components can be solved by leveraging the expertise of IIT Madras faculty.

Key Points

ISRO's Headquarters	—	Bengaluru
ISRO's Chairman	—	S Somnath

Nafithromycin: India's First Antibiotic to Combat Resistance

- In a ground-breaking step for India's biotechnology sector, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh formally launched the first Indigenous antibiotic "Nafithromycin" for resistant infections.
- The antibiotic "Nafithromycin" has been developed with the support of "Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council" (BIRAC), a unit of the Department

of Biotechnology and has been brought to market under the trade name “Miqnaf” by pharma company “Wolkardt”. It is the country’s first indigenously developed antibiotic aimed at tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

- This innovation is designed to treat Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP), a severe illness caused by drug-resistant bacteria, which disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly as well as immune-compromised hosts like Patients with Diabetes, Cancers etc.

India signs the Final Act of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT)

- India has signed the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT) to strengthen its intellectual property ecosystem and promote inclusive growth. The treaty promotes innovation and creativity, especially among SMEs, startups, and independent designers.
- It seeks to harmonise the procedural frameworks for industrial design protection, improving the efficiency and accessibility of registration processes across multiple jurisdictions.
- It standardises global creativity in design thus reducing administrative burdens, thereby promoting global creativity in design.
- The treaty was signed after nearly two decades of negotiations by the member states of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

Key Points

WIPO’s Headquarters — Geneva, Switzerland
Director General — Daren Tang

India, ISA sign Agreement on Solar Project in Pacific Islands

- The Ministry of External Affairs and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) signed the project Implementation Agreement to execute new solar projects in Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles.
- India has committed to invest \$2 million in new solar projects in Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles.
- The ISA, as the Project Implementing Agency, would provide programmatic assistance to Comoros, Fiji, Madagascar and Seychelles with financial support from India.

Key Points

ISA’s Director General — Ashish Khanna
ISA’s Headquarters — Gurugram, Haryana

All-women CISF battalion will protect airports, metros, provide VIP security

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved the establishment of the first-ever all-woman CISF battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel.
- This battalion will shoulder the responsibility of protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure, such as airports and metro rail systems and providing security to VIPs as commandos.
- The CISF has 12 reserve battalions under its establishment at present and they have a mix of both men and women personnel. Women personnel constitute over 7% of the CISF.

Key Points

Union Minister of Home Affairs — Amit Shah
C ISF’s Director General — Rajwinder Singh Bhatti

Gwalior houses India’s first modern, self-sufficient gaushala with a state-of-the-art Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Gwalior’s new 100 TPD cattle dung-based Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant, exemplifying his vision for a “Waste to Wealth” initiative.
- The CBG plant is Gwalior’s largest cowshed, Adarsh Gaushala, located in Laltipara, Gwalior. The Gaushala is operated by Gwalior Municipal Corporation and over 10,000 cattle live here.
- It has achieved a landmark feat with the establishment of India’s first modern, self-sufficient gaushala that houses a state-of-the-art Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant.
- It is the first CBG plant in Madhya Pradesh in which biogas will be prepared from cattle dung and garbage such as vegetable and fruit waste materials collected from mandis and homes.

CEA recognises indigenously developed Surface Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology under the Hydro Category.

- Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has recognised Surface Hydrokinetic Turbine (SHKT) technology under the Hydro Category to drive innovations and explore alternate technologies to achieve net zero emission targets and ensure sustainable development of the power sector for India.

- SHKT, uses the kinetic energy of flowing water with practically zero potential head for the generation of electrical energy unlike conventional units, which utilise potential energy of water through the construction of suitable civil structures such as dams, diversion weirs and barrages for the creation of the necessary 'Head.'
- Surface Hydrokinetic turbines are easy to install and cost-effective, with a generation cost of ₹2-3 per unit. This technology provides a win-win situation for both renewable energy buyers and generators.

Dharmendra Pradhan and Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launch the 'Jobs at Your Doorstep' Report by the World Bank

- Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, along with the Minister of Labour and Employment and Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched a report titled Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People

in the Six States- Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

- Jobs at Your Doorstep is a skills gap analysis that attempts to align trades offered in the schools industry-specific needs of the districts where the schools are present.
- The World Bank report has carried out the study under its program called Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS).
- The report underscores the significant benefits of embedding skill-based education from Classes 9-12 to prepare students for diverse career paths relying on a bottom-up approach, going deep in districts of the six states.

Key Points

World Bank's Headquarters — Washington DC, US
World Bank's President — Ajay Banga

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Yuva Sangam Phase V launched

- Yuva Sangam Phase V commenced on a high note when 44 delegates from Bihar started their journey to Karnataka on November 24, 2024. Another group of 50 delegates from Andhra Pradesh started their tour to Uttar Pradesh on November 25, 2024.
- Twenty eminent institutions across India have been selected from the state for Phase V of Yuva Sangam during which participants from these states/ UTs, led by the nodal HEI of the state/UT, respectively, will be visiting their paired state/ UTs.
- Yuva Sangam was launched by the Ministry of Education which is aimed at strengthening people-to-people connections among youth across different States and Union Territories. The program promotes unity in diversity by facilitating meaningful interactions, cultural immersion, and knowledge sharing.
- The participants, aged 18 to 30, include students, NSS/NYKS volunteers, and young professionals from various walks of life. They are selected through a meticulous process conducted by the nodal institutes of their respective states, ensuring a diverse and representative group.

Bhu-Neer Portal launched

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, C.R. Paatil digitally launched the newly developed "Bhu-Neer" portal.

- The "Bhu-Neer" is an advanced portal developed by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), for improved groundwater regulation across the country.
- This portal will serve as a one-stop platform for managing and regulating groundwater resources, aimed at ensuring transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in groundwater usage.

India launches ₹200-crore Decentralised Green Hydrogen Initiative

- The Government of India has launched a ₹200 crore pilot scheme to promote green hydrogen production and usage in decentralised applications extending through the fiscal years up to 2025-26.
- This initiative, led by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), aims to explore innovative methods for producing and utilizing green hydrogen in residential, commercial, and community settings.
- The MNRE has also issued implementation guidelines to promote innovation in green hydrogen production and usage. These guidelines are part of the broader National Green Hydrogen Mission, which aims to establish a comprehensive green hydrogen ecosystem in India.

Key Points

Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) — Pralhad Joshi

NITI Aayog launches ASSET (Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition (ASSET) Initiative

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, launched the ASSET platform—Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Energy Transition.
- ASSET platform is a timely initiative to support states in accelerating their green transition.
- The platform will assist in formulating state energy transition blueprints along with aiding in its implementation, preparing a pipeline of bankable projects, showcasing best practices across states as well as upcoming technology and innovations in critical sectors like BESS, Green Hydrogen, Energy efficiency, e-mobility, offshore wind, etc.
- The role of states is crucial in achieving India's national aspirations of becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047 and achieving Net-zero GHG emissions by 2070.

Key Points

Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog — Suman Bery
— BVR Subrahmanyam

Govt to Launch PAIR Programme to Boost University Research

- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) launched the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) initiative to enhance the research capabilities of universities, particularly central and state public institutions.
- Through a hub-and-spoke model, PAIR aims to pair emerging institutions with well-established, top-tier institutions, enabling mentorship and collaboration to accelerate research output. Each PAIR network will consist of a central hub institution and between three to seven spoke institutions. The network will engage multiple departments and faculty members from these institutions. A hub institution can submit only one proposal and each institution can participate as a spoke in only one network.
- The funding for each PAIR network will vary based on factors such as the research theme, the number of spoke institutions, and the involvement of multiple departments and faculty members.

Operation Dronagiri launched

- Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, launched the Operation Dronagiri, a pilot project under National Geospatial Policy 2022 to demonstrate the potential applications of geospatial technologies and innovations in improving the quality of life of citizens and ease of doing business.
- In the first phase, Operation Dronagiri will be implemented in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra, where pilot projects will be run and use cases will be demonstrated to showcase the potential applications of integration of geospatial data and technology in three sectors --Agriculture, Livelihoods, Logistics and Transport.
- Operation gains a powerful backbone with support from an Integrated Geospatial Data Sharing Interface (GDI), that will make spatial data accessible, bringing transformation similar to the process in which UPI has brought about financial inclusion.

Govt launches ₹500 crore scheme to strengthen medical devices industry

- Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister JP Nadda launched a ₹500 crore scheme to strengthen India's medical devices industry, focusing on critical areas such as manufacturing key components and accessories, skill development, support for clinical studies, development of common infrastructure, and industry promotion.
- This initial outlay of ₹500 crore will be for three years, up to financial year 2026-27 (FY27).
- The overall scheme consists of five components, including common facilities for medical device clusters, capacity building and skill development, a marginal investment scheme for reducing import dependence, clinical studies support and a medical device promotion scheme.

Ministry of Textiles approves 12 research projects worth ₹13 crores under the National Technical Textiles Mission

- The Union Minister of Textiles has approved 12 research projects worth ₹13.3 Crore under the National Technical Textiles Mission.
- The research projects were approved across key strategic areas of geotextiles, sustainable and smart textiles, composites, etc.
- The approved projects were proposed by eminent research bodies and institutions including IITs, NITs, CRRI, etc. The total number of approved research projects under the Mission now stands at 168 with a total value of approx. ₹509 crores.

- National Technical Textiles Mission is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Textiles focused on developing the research and development capabilities of the local industry, especially in the areas of high-performance fibre development.

Key Points

Union Minister of Textiles — Giriraj Singh

Prasar Bharati launches Over-The-Top (OTT) Platform 'Waves'

- Public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has stepped into the OTT space with the launch of its new app 'Waves'.
- Waves is a digital platform developed by Prasar Bharati. It aims to cater to India's growing demand for streaming services. It offers a wide range of content, including live TV, video on demand, games, radio streaming, and e-commerce options via the ONDC network.
- Its offerings include- on-demand content, live events, games, and online shopping options.
- Currently, the app provides access to around 65 live channels, including private broadcasters such as ABP News, India Today, Republic and NDTV India, alongside Doordarshan and Aakashvani.

Key Points

Prasar Bharati Chairman — Navneet Kumar Sehgal

Union Minister for Women and Child Development launches 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' Campaign

- In a significant step towards eradicating child marriage and empowering young girls across the nation, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, launched the national campaign "Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat" in New Delhi.
- As part of the campaign, the Minister also inaugurated the Child Marriage Free Bharat Portal, an innovative online platform that enables citizens to report child marriage incidents, file complaints, and access information about Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) nationwide. The portal is a significant step in empowering citizens and enforcing the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
- Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, marriages involving girls under 18 and boys under 21 are strictly prohibited, with severe penalties for violators.

Union Cabinet approved the 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme

- The Union Cabinet has approved One Nation One Subscription, a new Central Sector Scheme for providing country-wide access to scholarly research articles and journal publications.
- This will be a "One Nation One Subscription" facility for the government higher education institutions and R&D laboratories of the central government.
- A total of about ₹6,000 crore has been allocated for One Nation One Subscription for three calendar years, 2025, 2026 and 2027.
- The benefits of the scheme will be provided to all Higher Educational Institutions under the management of the Central or State Government and Research & Development Institutions of the Central Government through a national subscription coordinated by a central agency, namely the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous inter-university center of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- This list covers more than 6,300 institutions, translating into nearly 1.8 crore students, faculty and researchers, who will be able to potentially avail benefits of One Nation One Subscription.
- This is in line with the goals of Viksitbharat@2047, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

Center Launches National Mission on Natural Farming

- The Union Cabinet approved the launching of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- The scheme has a total outlay of ₹2481 crore (Government of India share – ₹1584 crore; State share – ₹897 crore) till the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26).
- NMNF aims to promote NF practices to provide safe and nutritious food for all. The Mission is designed to support farmers in reducing the input cost of cultivation and dependency on externally purchased inputs.
- NMNF is launched as a shift to scientifically revive and strengthen agriculture practices towards sustainability, climate resilience and healthy food for farmer families and consumers.

Centre launches e-Daakhil across all states and union territories of India

- The Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India launched e-Daakhil portal in Ladakh.
- Going through restrictions on consumers due to COVID-19, the e-Daakhil portal was introduced as an inexpensive, speedy and hassle-free mechanism for filing consumer complaints.
- e-Daakhil is an innovative online platform designed to streamline the consumer grievance redressal process, providing an efficient and convenient way for consumers to approach the relevant consumer forum, dispensing the need to travel and be physically present to file their grievances.

Key Points

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs — Pralhad Joshi

TeacherApp: New digital platform for teachers

- Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled the TeacherApp, an innovative digital platform designed to revolutionise education in India by equipping educators with future-ready skills to meet the demands of 21st-century classrooms.

- The Platform has been developed by Bharti Airtel Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises.
- This app will significantly empower teachers through continuous capacity building, leveraging innovative course content, technology, and community-building features.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches Nayi Chetna 3.0

- Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the third edition of Nayi Chetna – Pahal Badlaav Ki, a national campaign against gender-based violence.
- He also inaugurated 227 new Gender Resource Centres (GRCs) across 13 States. These centres provide survivors of gender-based violence with safe spaces to access information, report incidents, and receive legal assistance. Each GRC serves as a vital link in a support network, where survivors can feel validated and empowered to voice their experiences.
- Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi launched the #abkoibahananahi campaign at the Nayi Chetna 3.0 launch, stating the need for collective action against Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Australia to ban social media for children under the age of 16

- Australia approved the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024 to restrict social media for children under the age of 16. This will be the "world-first" set of measures.
- The bill puts the onus on social media companies to prevent children from accessing their platforms. The companies can be fined up to \$32 million if they fail to do so.

Key Points

Australia's Capital — Canberra
Prime Minister — Anthony Albanese

LignoSat: Japan launches the first wooden satellite for Space Testing

- The world's first wooden satellite, LignoSat, was launched by Japanese scientists to understand the feasibility of timber in space. It was jointly developed

by Kyoto University and homebuilder Sumitomo Forestry.

- The satellite will be positioned at approximately 400 kilometres above Earth. It was launched to test the viability of a renewable material in future space habitation and exploration.
- The wood used is a Japanese magnolia species traditionally used for sword sheaths. The decision came after the 10-month ISS study confirming the Honoki's resilience in space. The wooden aircraft are made without screws or glue reflecting traditional craftsmanship.
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is Japan's national air and space agency.

Key Points

Japan's Capital — Tokyo
Japan's Prime Minister — Shigeru Ishiba
JAXA's Administration — Hiroshi Yamakawa

COP29: Climate Club launches Global Matchmaking Platform for industrial decarbonisation

- The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Climate Club launched the Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP).
- The initiative focused on accelerating decarbonisation in heavy-emitting industries was launched in the presence of partner countries, key donors and partner organisations.
- The launch event highlights the annual funding gap of US\$125 billion to reach the goal of net zero emissions.
- The GMP for industry decarbonisation is being built as a support mechanism of the Climate Club, with the secretariat hosted by the UNIDO.
- Its activities are also supported by the Climate Club interim Secretariat jointly hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

China extends DF-100 supersonic missile range to 4,000 km for strategic strikes.

- China has enhanced its supersonic cruise missile, the Dongfeng-100 (DF-100), which poses a threat due to its potential upgrades and capabilities.
- The supersonic cruise missile is also known as the Changjian-100 (CJ-100).
- The DF-100 is currently a supersonic missile, which can reach speeds of 4,700 km/h. The missile is 9 metres long and can carry a warhead weighing up to 500 kg. Previously, it had a range of 2,000–3,000 km.
- It is designed for precision strikes and features capabilities aimed at targeting various types of installations and structures.

Pavona clavus coral, the world's largest coral colony discovered

- Scientists discovered the world's largest coral colony

during an expedition in the Solomon Islands. It is a 300-year-old Pavona clavus coral.

- It measures 112 by 105 feet and is visible from space.
- It is made up of nearly a billion polyps highlighting the stunning biodiversity of the Coral Triangle

UAE launches Global Energy Efficiency Alliance

- The UAE has unveiled an ambitious initiative to establish the "Global Energy Efficiency Alliance" during COP29, hosted in Azerbaijan.
- This move aims to double global energy efficiency rates by 2030 and contribute to significant emission reductions.
- The initiative builds on the 'UAE Consensus' from COP28, a commitment that brought together countries, organisations, and corporations to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable resource management.

Key Points

Capital	—	Abu Dhabi
President	—	Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Dubai to launch world's first aerial taxi services in 2026, approves vertiport near the airport

- Dubai has approved the construction of its first aerial taxi vertiport, a groundbreaking step toward becoming the first city to introduce urban aerial transport.
- It will be located near Dubai International Airport and will offer a unique, efficient and comfortable travel experience for passengers soaring through the skies.
- It will include take-off and landing zones, aircraft charging stations, a taxi apron, and parking areas. The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) will oversee the project and integrate it with existing transportation systems. The service is expected to launch in early 2026.

INDIA AND WORLD

India sole country to vote against Pakistan's resolution on conventional arms control

- India did not vote in favour of Pakistan and Syria's resolution on 'conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels' in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly.
- The resolution by Pakistan and Syria was adopted by recorded vote with 179 members voting in favour.

While Israel was absent, India was the sole country to vote against the resolution.

- The First Committee of the UNGA deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community.
- The resolution recognises the "crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security."

Key Points

Headquarters — New York, US
 UNGA's President — Philémon Yang

Australia introduced the MATES scheme

- Australia has introduced a new initiative aimed at talented young professionals from India.
- This initiative is known as the Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme (MATES). The MATES scheme allows Indian university graduates and early career professionals to live and work in Australia for up to two years.

SpaceX launches GSAT-20 Satellite for India

- India's GSAT-N2 (GSAT-20) communication satellite was successfully launched by SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- This was a significant milestone as this is India's first collaboration with the global space tech giant.
- GSAT-N2, also known as GSAT-20, is an advanced communication satellite jointly developed by ISRO's Satellite Centre and Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre. It has a data transmission capacity of 48 Gbps and is meant to improve broadband services and enable in-flight connectivity across India.
- The satellite will provide critical communication infrastructure for India's Smart Cities Mission.

Key Points

Chairman and Managing Director of NSIL, ISRO's Commercial Arm — Radhakrishnan Durairaj

India and Italy forge strategic partnership 2025-29

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni announced a five-

year strategic action plan outlining their vision for collaboration in a range of key sectors, including defence, trade, energy and space.

- The two leaders unveiled the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025—29 as they met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Kenya cancels airport, energy deals with Adani group after US indictments

- Kenya's president, William Ruto cancelled multimillion-dollar airport expansion and energy deals with Indian tycoon Gautam Adani after US bribery and fraud indictments against one of Asia's richest men.
- The decision was made based on new information provided by Kenya's investigative agencies and partner nations. He didn't specify the United States.
- The Adani group had been in the process of signing an agreement that would modernise Kenya's main airport in the capital, Nairobi, with an additional runway and terminal constructed, in exchange for the group running the airport for 30 years.

RBI, Maldives Monetary Authority sign pact to promote the use of local currencies

- The Reserve Bank of India and the Maldives Monetary Authority has signed an agreement to allow cross-border transactions using the Indian Rupee and the Maldivian Rufiyaa.
- This framework aims to reduce transaction costs, promote bilateral trade, and strengthen economic ties between the two nations.

Key Points

RBI's Headquarters — Mumbai
 RBI's Governor — Shaktikanta Das

FINANCE, ECONOMY & BANKING**Piyush Goyal launches Ease of Doing Business Portal**

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Regulatory Affairs portal to get insights into India's business environment and to receive and track suggestions for improvement.
- The portal attempts to provide status and updates on key initiatives on Ease of Doing Business by both the government and CII.
- With a dedicated member dashboard, users can track progress and submissions on a real-time basis ensuring

transparency, accountability, and meaningful and timely resolution of concerns.

Key Points

CII's President — Sanjiv Puri
 Headquarters — New Delhi

Alphabet to invest in Flipkart

- The Competition Commission approved Alphabet's arm Shoreline International Holdings LLC to acquire a stake in Walmart group firm Flipkart.

- Shoreline International Holding is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Google's parent firm Alphabet Inc. It is a holding company and does not own or operate any Google products or services.
- Flipkart is a subsidiary of Walmart Inc. and ultimately belongs to the Walmart Group. It is primarily engaged in the business of wholesale cash and carry of goods and providing marketplace-based e-commerce platforms to facilitate trade between customers and sellers in India.

Key Points

Alphabet Founders	— Larry Page and Sergey Brin
Headquarters	— California, US
CEO	— Sundar Pichai
Flipkart's Headquarters	— Bengaluru, Karnataka
CEO	— Kalyan Krishnamurthy

Tata seals deal to acquire 60% of Pegatron's Tamil Nadu iPhone plant

- Tata Electronics will acquire a majority stake in Pegatron's iPhone manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu, marking a big expansion of Tata's role as an Apple supplier.
- Under the agreement, Tata will hold a 60% stake in the plant and oversee daily operations, while Pegatron will retain the remaining 40% and provide technical support.
- The move aligns with Apple's strategy to diversify its supply chain beyond China, amid growing geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China. For Tata, this acquisition strengthens its position in the iPhone manufacturing ecosystem.
- This will be Tata's third iPhone manufacturing facility in India. The conglomerate took over Wistron's iPhone assembly plant in Karnataka last year and is currently developing another facility in Hosur, Tamil Nadu.

Air India officially completes its merger with Vistara

- Air India completed the merger of a full-service carrier Vistara into its operations. The newly integrated Air India entity is now set to operate over 5,600 weekly flights across more than 90 destinations, marking a significant moment in the Indian aviation industry.
- The combined airline will now service 103 domestic and 71 international routes.
- With this merger, Singapore Airlines acquires a 25.1% stake in the expanded Air India. This milestone follows

the merger of Air India's low-cost carriers, Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India), on October 1, 2024

Key Points

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Air India — Campbell Wilson

SBI, HDFC and ICICI remain Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) in 2024: RBI

- State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank have again been named as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Inclusion in the list requires the lenders to maintain higher Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) in addition to the capital conservation buffer as per the bucket under which it has been classified.
- The classifications are based on data collected from banks as of March 31, 2024.
- The RBI first announced the framework dealing with D-SIBs in 2014 and tagged SBI and ICICI Bank in the list in 2015 and 2016.

Key Points

SBI's Headquarters	— Mumbai, Maharashtra
Chairman	— Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
HDFC's Headquarters	— Mumbai, Maharashtra
Chairman	— Atanu Chakraborty
ICICI's Headquarters	— Mumbai, Maharashtra
MD & CEO	— Sandeep Bakshi

IndusInd Bank Partners with UNICEF for Climate Action

- IndusInd Bank and UNICEF announced a strategic partnership to support 'disaster resilient communities and climate risk-informed efficient administrative systems' as part of IndusInd Bank's flagship CSR programme.
- This program aims to improve government policies in five selected districts across India and to develop a climate-informed administrative system: Dhule (Maharashtra), Begusarai (Bihar), Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu), Baran (Rajasthan), and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh).
- This initiative is part of the Integrated Rural Development Program (Climate Action Component), which is a major CSR initiative of IndusInd Bank in aspirational districts.

Key Points

IndusInd Bank MD & CEO	— Sumant Kathpalia
Headquarters	— Mumbai, Maharashtra
UNICEF's Headquarters	— New York, US
Executive Director	— Catherine M. Russell

DPIIT gives nod to Hinduja Group firm IIHL for the acquisition of RCAP

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has given a go-ahead to Hinduja Group firm IIHL for the acquisition of debt-ridden Reliance Capital Ltd (RCAP).
- DPIIT approval was required as some of the shareholders of IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL) are residents of Hong Kong, a special administrative region controlled by China.
- If an entity from a nation sharing a land border with India (China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan), or if a citizen or permanent resident of any such country is the beneficial owner of an investment in India, they are required to pursue investment through the government approval route.

IFC to partner with Bajaj Finance to pump in \$400 mn for climate finance

- International Finance Corporation (IFC) will partner with Bajaj Finance to invest \$400 million out of the \$1 billion fundraising to aid in the expansion of the latter's EV fleet, Energy-Efficient Consumer Goods (EECG) and women empowerment.
- It will enable Bajaj Finance to expand access to finance for customers opting to buy EVs, including 2-wheelers, 3-wheelers and 4-wheelers, and strengthen its presence in the EECG space. The partnership will also boost Bajaj Finance's ability to fund and support more women-owned micro-enterprises and women micro-borrowers.

Key Points

Sandeep Jain	— Chief financial officer & chief operating officer, Bajaj Finance Ltd.
IFC's MD	— Makhtar Diop
Headquarters	— Washington DC, US

Cabinet approves ₹10,700 Crore Equity Infusion For FCI

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved an infusion of equity of ₹10,700 crore for working capital in the financial year 2024-25 in the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

- The decision is aimed at bolstering the agricultural sector and ensuring the welfare of farmers nationwide.
- FCI started its journey in 1964 with authorised capital of ₹100 crores and equity of ₹4 crores.

Govt reconstitutes CAC to drive reforms, boost apprenticeship training

- With an eye on boosting apprenticeship in the country, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has reconstituted the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC) to mull over reforms in the existing rules and suggest measures to increase the uptake of on-the-job training by the industry.
- The reconstituted CAC will have a tenure of three years and will comprise 54 members consisting of representatives from various industry associations, public sector undertakings, state governments and independent experts.
- The erstwhile council constituted in March 2019 had 46 members.

Key Points

Union Minister (State) of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	— Jayant Chaudhary
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ONGC and NTPC form a joint venture to advance renewable, new energy interests

- Leading public sector undertakings (PSUs) NTPC Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) announced the formation of a 50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC) to further promote their interests in the renewable and new energy arena.
- The JVC between the country's largest power generating company and largest oil and gas producer has been formed through their green energy subsidiaries – NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) and ONGC Green Energy Ltd.
- The new company will venture into various renewable energy and new energy opportunities including solar and wind energy, both onshore and offshore, and green molecules such as green hydrogen, green ammonia, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), and green methanol.

Key Points

Chairman and MD, NTPC	— Gurdeep Singh
NTPC Headquarters	— New Delhi
Chairman and CEO, ONGC	— Arun Kumar Singh
ONGC Headquarters	— Delhi

UPI sets a new record in Oct with 16.58 bn transactions worth ₹23.5 trn

- There were 16.58 billion Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions worth ₹23.5 trillion in October, the highest numbers for the digital system since it became operational in April 2016.
- UPI's previous peak was 15.04 billion in volume terms in September 2024 and ₹20.64 trillion in value in July.
- The growth in transactions is driven by person-to-merchant transactions (for buying goods or services),

which got a festival season push in October. It was the first time that UPI crossed 16 billion in volume and ₹23 trillion in value.

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was launched in 2016. UPI has revolutionised the country's payment ecosystem by integrating multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application.

Key Points

MD & CEO, NPCI — Dilip Asbe
Headquarters — Mumbai, Maharashtra

DEFENCE NEWS

INSV Tarini completes historic voyage to Australia

- INSV Tarini, part of India's Navika Sagar Parikrama II, completed a 39-day voyage from Goa to Fremantle, Australia, covering 4900 nautical miles.
- This historic expedition was crewed by two female officers, Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A.
- They faced extreme weather challenges, showcasing resilience and maritime skills.
- The journey promotes gender equality and maritime cooperation, emphasizing India's rich naval heritage.

Key Points

Chief of Naval Staff — Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

Indian Navy conducts OpDemo2024

- The Indian Navy displayed its operational prowess and capabilities through an 'Operational Demonstration' that covered many facets of naval operations by ships, submarines, aircraft, marine commandos and Indian Army personnel at the pristine Blue Flag Beach, Puri, Odisha.
- The Op Demo aimed to bring focus to the Navy's rich maritime history and demonstrated the valour and courage of its personnel and their resolve to safeguard national maritime interests Anytime, Anywhere, Anyhow.
- It saw the participation of 15 warships, aircraft comprising MiG 29K and MH 60R, along with combat beach reconnaissance by the Marine Commandos of the Indian Navy.
- This was the second time that the Indian Navy had organised a mega event at a location other than a major Naval Station. Blue Flag Beach, Puri, is about 500 km from Visakhapatnam and about 200 km from the nearest Naval Station at INS Chilka.

Indian Army Chief named Honorary General of Nepali Army

- Indian Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi was honoured with the prestigious title of Honourary General of the Nepali Army.
- Every three years, the Chief of the Indian Army is made an Honorary General of the Nepali Army, and vice versa by which both armies share similar values and a commitment to regional security.

Antariksha Abhyas: India's First-Ever Space Exercise

- 'Antariksha Abhyas – 2024', a three-day Exercise to war-game the growing threats from and to Space-Based Assets and Services, was conducted by the Defence Space Agency of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff from Nov 11 – 13, 2024.
- Exercise Antariksha Abhyas is a first-of-its-kind exercise being conducted and is expected to help secure national strategic objectives in space and integrate India's space capability in military operations.

Key Points

Chief of Defence Staff — General Anil Chauhan

DRDO conducts successful Flight of Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the maiden flight test of Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha from a mobile articulated launcher.
- The missile performance was monitored by several range sensors like Radar, Electro-Optical Tracking System and telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path.

- LRLACM has been developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru along with contributions from other DRDO laboratories and Indian industries.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad and Bharat Electronics Limited, Bengaluru are the two Development-Cum-Production-Partners for LRLACM and they are engaged in missile development and integration.
- LRLACM is a Defence Acquisition Council-approved, Acceptance of Necessity-sanctioned, Mission Mode Project. It is configured to launch from the ground using mobile articulated launchers and also from frontline ships using a universal vertical launch module system.
- Spanning the entirety of India's 11,098 km coastline and its Exclusive Economic Zone of 2.4 million sq. km.
- Sea Vigil 24 witnessed the participation of over 21 agencies across six ministries. These included the Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, State Marine Police, Customs, BSF, CISF, Port Authorities and Fisheries Department, among others.
- Sea Vigil 24 focused on enhancing the coastal defence of the country.

Key Points

Chairman DRDO — Dr Samir V Kamat

India and Russia sign MoU to cooperate on Pantsir air defence systems

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Rosoboronexport, Russia's main weapons export agency have signed an agreement to cooperate on jointly developing variants of the Pantsir air defence missile and gun system, a move aimed at bolstering the country's air defence capabilities.
- The Pantsir, which combines a short reaction time with the capability of a combat vehicle, can engage aircraft with its missiles at altitudes of up to 15 km and with its 30mm guns at altitudes of up to 3,000 metres.
- This follows India's \$ 5.4 billion deal with Russia in October 2018 for five batteries of the S-400 air defence systems. Russia has so far provided three batteries while deliveries of the remaining two have been delayed because of the war in Ukraine.

Key Points

Chairman and Managing Director of BDL — A Madhavarao

Deputy Director General of the Naval Department of Rosoboron export — German Kovalenko

Pan India coastal defence exercise- 'Sea Vigil 24' conducted

- The fourth edition of the Pan-India Coastal Defence Exercise Sea Vigil 24 was conducted over 36 hours.
- It demonstrated India's unwavering commitment to strengthening its maritime security and coastal defence mechanisms.

DRDO successfully tests guided Guided Pinaka Weapon System

- DRDO has completed the Flight Tests of the Guided Pinaka Weapon System as part of Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials.
- The Army first witnessed the havoc caused by the Pinaka multiple-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) during the Kargil War in 1999, when the system, still under development, caused widespread depredation when fired at Pakistani infiltrators' positions. Impressed, the Indian Army decided to replace its Soviet-era MBRLs — the venerable GRAD BM-21 — with an indigenous MBRL. The result is the Pinaka.
- The Pinaka MBRL, named after the legendary bow of Lord Shiva, takes just three minutes to come into and out of action.
- The Pinaka project has been successfully led by two DRDO laboratories in Pune—Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)—in partnership with two private sector firms, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Tata Power Company Ltd (TPCL).

India and Japan sign agreement for UNICORN masts

- In a significant development, India and Japan have signed an agreement for the co-development of specialised radio communication equipment used by naval warships.
- This marks the first instance of co-development or co-production of defence equipment between the two countries.
- The equipment, called the Unified Complex Radio Antenna, or 'Unicorn,' is a mast-shaped system that integrates all communication functions on a warship.
- Technically known as the 'NORA-50 antenna,' it is currently used by Japanese warships. This system would help enhance the stealth capabilities of Indian naval platforms.

- The Indian Navy plans to induct these advanced systems, which will be co-developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in India in collaboration with Japan.

Indian Army successfully concludes 'SANYUKT VIMOCHAN 2024'.

- The Indian Army successfully conducted the Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, 'Sanyukt Vimochan 2024' at Ahmedabad and Porbandar.
- The Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration featured various agencies practising coordinated logistics, rapid response and effective disaster management strategies in a simulated cyclone scenario.
- This event highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Airforce, Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force & other Central & State Agencies in addressing natural disasters.

Key Points

Chief of the Army Staff — General Upendra Dwivedi

Indian Army receives Advanced Sabal 20 Logistics Drone from EndureAir

- In a significant move to bolster the Indian Army's logistical capabilities, the private drone manufacturer EndureAir has delivered its innovative Sabal 20 logistics drone to the Eastern theatre of operations.
- This marks a crucial step in modernising the army's ability to operate efficiently in challenging and remote terrains.
- The Sabal 20 is an advanced electric Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) designed specifically for aerial logistics. With a payload capacity of up to 20 kilograms—about half of its own weight—the drone is capable of carrying supplies over long distances, a critical advantage for military forces operating in areas where traditional transport is difficult.
- The drone's design incorporates variable pitch technology and large rotors, similar to the Chinook helicopter, allowing for exceptional load-carrying capacity, stability, and high-altitude performance. Its tandem rotor configuration ensures minimal turbulence and improved lift, making it well-suited for rugged and high-altitude terrains.

- The Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) technology allows the drone to operate in confined spaces and difficult environments.

Key Points

Director and Co-founder of EndureAir — Dr Abhishek

Pune to host Historic Army Day Parade 2025

- Pune, a city renowned for its rich military heritage, is set to host the prestigious Army Day Parade for the first time on January 15, 2025, marking a historic milestone.
- The Army Day Parade commemorates Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa's appointment as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949, symbolising India's post-independence military leadership.
- Traditionally held in Delhi, the parade began rotating to different cities in 2023, starting with Bengaluru, followed by Lucknow in 2024.
- Pune's selection for the 2025 parade highlights the city's historic ties to the Armed Forces and its role as the headquarters of the Indian Army's Southern Command.

Bharat NCX 2024 officially inaugurated

- The Bharat National Cyber Security Exercise (Bharat NCX 2024), a landmark initiative to fortify India's cybersecurity resilience, was inaugurated at a high-profile ceremony organised by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in collaboration with Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU).
- The 12-day exercise is a critical step in preparing India's cybersecurity professionals and leadership to tackle evolving threats with advanced cyber defence, incident response capabilities, and strategic decision-making.

ICG conducts SAREX 2024

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 11th edition of the National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2024) off the Kochi coast.
- SAREX-2024 was conducted with the theme 'Enhancing Search and Rescue Capabilities Through Regional Collaboration', highlighting the importance of international cooperation in strengthening maritime safety.

Joint Exercises			
S. No.	Name of the Exercise	Countries Involved	Highlights
1	AUSTRAHIND	India and Australia	Annual joint military exercise. Was held in Pune, Maharashtra.
2	Keris Woomera 2024	Indonesia-Australia Joint Military Drills	Was held off the coast of Java, with around 2,000 troops taking part in a series of air, maritime, amphibious, and land operations.
3	Exercise AgniWarrior 2024	India and Singapore Armed forces	Was held at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali, Maharashtra

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
K Sanjay Murthy	Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India
Shivangi Desai	Miss Charm India 2024
Arvinder Singh Sahney	Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation
Hemant Soren	Chief Minister of Jharkhand
Rajesh Kumar Singh	New Defence Secretary
Praveena Rai	CEO & MD, Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)
Rahul Bhawe	Managing Director and CEO of IFCI
Sanjiv Khanna	Chief Justice of India
Mara Kocho	Managing Director (MD) of the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC)
Harsha Vardhan Agarwal	President-Elect of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi	Chief of BrahMos Aerospace
Sonu Sood	Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand
Arvindar Singh Sahney	Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Oil
Dr Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes	Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF)
Victoria Kjaer Theilvig	Miss Universe 2024
Li Quanghai	President of World Sailing
Donald Trump	47 th President of the United States
Kemi Badenoch	First Black woman to lead the UK's Conservative Party
Duma Boko	President of Botswana
Maia Sandu	President of Moldova
Tayyab Ikram	President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)
Elise Stefanik	U.N. Ambassador, United States
Chris Evans	Australia's first Anti-Slavery Commissioner
Tulsi Gabbard	Director of National Intelligence (DNI)
Yamandu Orsi	President of Uruguay
Dr. Thomas Schinecker	President of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)

Shigeru Ishiba	Prime Minister of Japan
Alix Didier Fils-Aime	Prime Minister of Haiti
Navin Ramgoolam	Prime Minister of Mauritius
Yamandú Orsi	President of Uruguay
Itaru Otani	Yamaha Motor, Chairman of India
Amandeep Johl	CEO of Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)
Valdecy Urquiza	Secretary General of INTERPOL

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Name of the Book	Author
Friends – India's Closest Strategic Partners	Prof. Sreeram Chaulia
Maa-Mother	Dr. Davendra Kumar Dhodawat
My Beloved Life	Amitava Kumar
Why Bharat Matters	Dr. S. Jaishankar
Beyond the Higgs Boson: The W Boson and Dr Ashutosh Kotwal's Quest for the Unknown	Manik Kotwal

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Bibek Debroy	Economist
Rohit Bal	Fashion designer
Harinder Singh Sodhi	Sportsman (Polo player)
Sharda Sinha	Folk singer
Delhi Ganesh	Actor
Mahendra Singh Mewar	Politician
Amiya Kumar Bagchi	Economic Historian and macroeconomist
Madan Mohan Somtiya	Freedom Fighter and Member of Mewar Praja Mandal
Varadarao Kamalakara Rao	Mridangam Scholar
Harjit Singh Bedi	Supreme Court judge and ex-Chief Justice of Bombay High Court
Shashi Ruia	Chairman, Essar Group

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
John Tinniswood	World's Oldest Man
Princess Mikasa	Oldest Royal family member (Japan)
John Prescott	Politician
Breyten Breytenbach	South African Writer

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
November 1	World Vegan Day	
November 1	Haryana Day	
November 1	Rajyotsava Day (Karnataka Formation Day)	
November 2	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists	Safety of Journalists in Crises and Emergencies
November 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day	Empowering the next generation with the lessons of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami – 20 years on
November 6	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	
November 7	National Cancer Awareness Day	
November 8	World Radiography Day	Radiographers: Seeing the Unseen
November 9	National Legal Services Day	
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development	Youth at Forefront
November 10	World Immunization Day	Humanly Possible: Immunization for All
November 11—15	World Quality Week	
November 11	National Education Day	
November 12	World Pneumonia Day	Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Track
November 13	World Kindness Day	
November 14	World Diabetes Day	Diabetes and well-being
November 14 (Second Thursday in November)	World Usability Day or Make Things Easier Day	Designing for a better world
November 14	Children's Day	
November 15	Jharkhand Foundation Day	
November 15	World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day or World COPD Day	
November 16	International Day for Tolerance	
November 16	National Press Day	Changing Nature of Press
November 17	International Students Day	
November 17	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	That Day
November 17	National Epilepsy Day	
November 18—24	World AMR Awareness Week	Educate. Advocate. Act now

November 18	World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence	
November 19	World Toilet Day	Toilets - A Place for Peace
November 19	International Men's Day	Positive Male Role Models
November 19	Women's Entrepreneurship Day	
November 19 – 25	World Heritage Week	Discover and Experience Diversity
November 20	Universal Children's Day	Listen to the Future
November 21	World Television Day	Accessibility
November 21	World Fisheries Day	India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Small-Scale and Sustainable Fisheries
November 23	Fibonacci Day	Unravelling Nature's Math
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	Every 11 Minutes, a woman is killed. #NoExcuse. UNiTE to End Violence against Women
November 25-29	Aviation Safety Awareness Week	
November 26	Constitution Day or Law Day	
November 26	World Sustainable Transport Day	
November 26	National Milk Day	
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People	

REPORTS, RANKINGS AND INDEX

Seven Indian institutes feature in the top 100 in QS World University Rankings: Asia (2025)

- India boasts two institutions within the top 50 and seven in the top 100 of the QS Asia Rankings 2025, with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) leading at 44th place and IIT Bombay (48th).
- Five institutions, including IIT Madras (56), IIT Kharagpur (60), Indian Institute of Science (62), IIT Kanpur (67) and University of Delhi (81) feature in the top 100.
- The University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) achieved the most significant improvement among Indian institutions, climbing 70 spots to 148th, driven by notable advancements in nine of the 11 ranking metrics, especially in International Research Network, Citations per Paper and Papers per Faculty. India's strongest average indicator scores are in Papers per Faculty and Staff with PhD.

- The QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025 reflect the dynamic landscape of higher education across the continent, spotlighting the top institutions excelling in academic and research excellence, innovation, and internationalisation.

WIPO 2024's Intellectual Property Report

- The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) annually publishes the World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) report, which provides a comprehensive analysis of global trends in intellectual property filings.
- India now ranks sixth globally in terms of patent applications, with 64,480 patent filings in 2023. This puts India among the leading nations, including China, the United States, Japan and South Korea, in terms of intellectual property activity.
- For the first time in history, more than half (55.2%) of India's patent applications in 2023 were filed by residents, a significant milestone.

- India also saw a 149.4% increase in the number of patents granted in 2023 compared to the previous year.
- India's patent-to-GDP ratio—a measure of the economic impact of patent activity—grew significantly, from 144 in 2013 to 381 in 2023.

Sustainable Trade Index 2024

- Sustainable trade is defined as a trade that provides mutually beneficial outcomes for trading partners while effectively balancing economic, social, and environmental considerations.
- The report was released by the Hinrich Foundation and IMD highlights and ranks global economies in trade sustainability based on three pillars: economic growth, societal advancement, and environmental resilience.
- New Zealand has retained as the 'most sustainable trade economy' for the third consecutive edition.
- With an overall score of 24, India ranks 23 rd globally in the Sustainable Trade Index 2024.

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025—India ranks 10th

- India ranked 10th in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025, a global assessment of over 63 countries' efforts to combat climate change.
- Despite dropping two spots compared to last year, the report highlighted India's low per capita emissions and rapid renewable energy deployment as key strengths.
- The first three spots were left empty, with Denmark ranking fourth followed by Netherlands and UK.
- CCPI 2025 was published by think tanks Germanwatch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network International -- tracks the progress of the world's largest emitters in terms of emissions, renewables and climate policy.

India is among the top ten countries with Artificial Intelligence (AI) Readiness

- According to a report by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), India ranks second globally in AI specialists and third in research publications, with a strong base in AI-related patents.
- The report further showed that AI exposure spans several key sectors in India namely Business, retail and wholesale, agriculture, education, and healthcare.
- The report is based on data from 73 economies.

Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024

- HCL Technologies founder Shiv Nadar and family

have retained their position as the top donor in India on the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024. They have donated ₹2,153 crores.

- Following them among the top five donors are Mukesh Ambani and his family, the Bajaj family, Kumar Mangalam Birla and his family and Gautam Adani and his family.
- Together, these philanthropists contributed roughly 53%- roughly ₹4,625 crore of total contributions in India this year.
- Nikhil Kamath of Zerodha, at 38, is noted as the youngest with a donation exceeding ₹100 crore.
- Rohini Nilekani, contributing ₹154 crore, stands out as the most generous woman on the list.

Network Readiness Index 2024- India climbs 11 spots to enter the top 50 nations

- India was ranked at 49th position in the Networks Readiness Index 2024 with an improved score of 53.63.
- This underlines the country's enhanced technological, governance, and infrastructural capabilities.
- In 2023, India ranked 60th with a score of 49.93 in 2023.
- This remarkable leap of eleven positions reflects India's growing role as a leader in digital transformation, driven largely by robust government initiatives.
- The NRI 2024 evaluates the network readiness of 133 economies based on four key pillars: Technology, People, Governance and Impact, and uses a wide range of 54 variables to determine rankings.
- India has also ranked second among lower-middle-income countries, showcasing its leadership in digital advancement within its income group. These achievements reflect India's growing dominance in technological innovation, artificial intelligence, and the telecommunications sector.
- The index was topped by the United States followed by Singapore and Sweden.

Shanghai, Tokyo, New York and Houston Leading Emitters of Greenhouse Gases

- According to data, which combined observations and artificial intelligence, cities in Asia and the United States are the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases contributing to climate change, with Shanghai being the most polluting city,
- This data was provided by an organisation co-founded by former US Vice President Al Gore and released during the United Nations climate talks in Baku, Azerbaijan.

EVENTS

International Conference on Traditional Knowledge 2024

- The International Conference on Communication and Dissemination of Traditional Knowledge was held at Gurugram University.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) and Gurugram University jointly inaugurated the conference.

G20 Summit 2024

- The 19th Heads of State and Government Summit of the Group of 20 (G20) took place from November 18-19, 2024 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The 2024 Summit's theme was 'Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet'.
- It was hosted under the Brazilian G20 presidency.

India hosts Global Cooperative Conference 2024

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024 and launched the UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ICA Global Cooperative Conference and ICA General Assembly are being organised in India for the first time in the 130-year-long history of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the premier body for the Global Cooperative movement.
- The Global Conference was hosted by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), in collaboration with ICA and the Government of India, and Indian Cooperatives AMUL and KRIBHCO.
- The theme of the conference, "Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All," aligned with the Indian Government's vision of "Sahkar Se Samriddhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation). The event will feature discussions, panel sessions, and workshops, addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by cooperatives worldwide in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas such as poverty alleviation, gender equality, and sustainable economic growth.
- The UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025 will focus on the theme, "Cooperatives Build a Better World."

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the first Bodoland Mahotsav in Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Bodoland Mahotsav at the SAI Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Delhi.
- The two-day Mahotsav is a mega event on language, literature and culture to sustain peace and build a vibrant Bodo society.
- It aims to integrate the indigenous Bodo people residing not only in Bodoland but other parts of Assam, West Bengal, Nepal and international border areas of the Northeast.

India to host WADA Global Learning and Development Framework (GLDF)

- India, in collaboration with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), is set to host the Global Learning and Development Framework (GLDF) Results Management Training in New Delhi.
- It was organised by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) in collaboration with WADA and with support from the Japan Sports Agency (JSA) and Japan Anti-Doping Agency (JADA).
- The four-day training program witnessed the participation of anti-doping professionals and experts from over ten countries, including Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Philippines, Brunei, Kyrgyzstan and Laos, along with representatives from international organisations such as WADA, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), and the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- The GLDF Training is an essential initiative under WADA's capacity-building framework. It is designed to enhance the technical expertise of anti-doping practitioners in various programme areas, this one is particularly focused on results management.

Japan and Wales to partner with Nagaland for Hornbill Festival 2024

- The 25th edition of the ten-day-long Hornbill Festival in Nagaland began on December 1, 2024. This year, the festival will feature four country partners—Wales, the US, Japan and Peru—along with two state partners, Sikkim and Telangana.

International Gita Mahotsav 2024

- The International Gita Mahotsav started on November 28, 2024, and concluded on December 15, 2024, in Kurukshetra, Haryana, India.
- It is organised by the Kurukshetra Development Board

and Haryana Tourism and it aims to promote the teachings of Bhagavad Gita.

- The Bhagavad Gita contains the invaluable advice from Lord Krishna that he offered to Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra on the first day of the 18-day battle in the Mahabharata nearly 5152 years ago.

AWARDS

Anil Pradhan wins Rohini Nayyar Prize for Rural STEM Education

- Anil Pradhan, a 28-year-old engineer from Odisha, was awarded the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development for his work in promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education among students in rural India.
- He is the co-founder of the Young Tinker Foundation. He came up with the idea of 'Tinker-on-Wheels' — a mobile learning lab that offered hands-on experiences in areas like robotics and 3D printing to school students in rural regions of Odisha, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.

55th International Film Festival of India

The 55th International Film Festival of India was held at Panaji, Goa, with the theme 'Young Filmmakers – The Future is Now'. Ashutosh Gowariker, the Indian filmmaker served as the chairperson of the international jury. Iconic Indian Director Ramesh Sippy and celebrated Actor Jaya Prada were specially felicitated for their contribution to Indian Cinema.

- Golden Peacock for the Best Film- Lithuanian film 'Toxic'
- Silver Peacock for Best Director- Bogdan Muresanu for his film, 'The New Year That Never Came.'
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor (Male)- Clément Favreau
- Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Female)-Actors Vesta Matulytė and Ieva Rupeikaitė
- Special Jury Award-Louise Courvoisier for the film 'Holy Cow.'
- Award for Best Debut Feature Film of a Director-Familiar Touch by Sarah Friedland
- Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film for his exceptional storytelling- Director Navjyot Bandiwadekar (for the Marathi Film 'Gharat Ganpati')
- ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal- 'Crossing' by Levan Akin

- Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award- Australian Filmmaker Phillip Noyce
- Best Web Series (OTT) Award- 'Lampan' (Sony Liv)
- Actor Vikrant Massey- Indian Film Personality of the Year Award

Samantha Harvey wins 2024 Booker Prize

- The Booker Prize for 2024 has been awarded to British writer Samantha Harvey for *Orbital* (Vintage). *Orbital* is a short, wonder-filled novel set aboard the International Space Station that ponders the beauty and fragility of Earth.
- She was awarded the £50,000 (\$64,000) prize. She is the first female Booker winner since 2019, though one of five women on this year's shortlist, the largest number in the prize's 55-year history.
- Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize is open to novels originally written in English and published in the U.K. or Ireland.

PM Narendra Modi receives Nigeria's second-highest national award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Nigeria's second-highest national award - the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger, making him the second foreign dignitary to receive the distinction.
- Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu honoured PM Modi with the sash and a badge on his black Nehru jacket. He is the second leader, after Queen Elizabeth, to receive the award.

Prime Minister conferred with Dominica's highest National Award

- Her Excellency Sylvaniae Burton, President of the Commonwealth of Dominica conferred the highest National Award - the "Dominica Award of Honour" on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for his statesmanship, support to Dominica during the Covid-19 pandemic and his commitment to strengthening India and Dominica ties.

- Guana's President, Dr Irfaan Ali conferred Guyana's highest honour Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and his efforts in strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations.
- Modi dedicated the honour to the people of India and the deep-rooted historical ties between the people of the two countries.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023 was conferred on Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad, who have dedicated their lives to promoting amity among Israeli and Palestinian people through non-violent tools of music, dialogue and peoples' participation.
- The awardees were selected by a distinguished jury headed by former Chief Justice of India T S Thakur.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2022 and 2023

- 82 Young Artists were conferred with Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2022 and 2023 at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

- Sangeet Natak Akademi instituted the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (UBKUP) in the name of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan for young performing art practitioners upto the age of 40 years in 2006.
- The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar is given annually to outstanding young artists in the fields of music, dance, drama, folk & tribal arts and puppetry in a special ceremony held in Delhi and also outside Delhi.
- The Yuva Puraskar carries a purse money of ₹25,000, a plaque and an angavastram.

PM Modi honoured with Dr Martin Luther King Jr. 'Global Peace Award'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured in absentia with the 'Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment.'
- The award was jointly presented by Washington Adventist University and AIAM, recognising his efforts toward inclusive development and minority welfare.
- The Association of Indian American Minorities (AIAM) is a newly formed non-governmental organisation. It is set to foster unity among Indian Americans in the United States.

SPORTS NEWS

Young Chess Prodigy makes history at Three

- Anish Sarkar has become the world's youngest chess player to be ranked by the International Chess Federation — all at the age of three, achieving a FIDE rating of 1555.
- Subsequently, he competed in the Under-9 tournament and finished 24th, defeating two rated opponents. In an Under-13 state event, he faced five rated players to get into the official rankings, released by the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) or the International Chess Federation.

Key Points

FIDE's Headquarters	—	Lausanne, Switzerland
President	—	Arkady Dvorkovich

'Know Your Medicine' App launched

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, has launched a nationwide appeal to strengthen the fight against doping in sports, urging athletes, coaches, and the entire sporting community

to embrace the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India's 'Know Your Medicine (KYM)' app.

- This innovative tool aims to empower athletes with critical information, helping them avoid inadvertent doping and maintain fair play.
- The app allows users to easily verify whether a specific medicine or its ingredients contain any substances listed as prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Key Points

NADA's Director General	—	Ashish Bhargava
Headquarters	—	New Delhi
WADA's President	—	Witold Bańka
Headquarters	—	Quebec, Canada

Odisha beats Haryana 5-1 to win the 14th Senior National Hockey Championship

- Odisha won the 14th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2024 in its first-ever final appearance by defeating two-time champion Haryana.

- The final held was at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai.

West Bengal won the fourth National Finswimming Championship

- West Bengal won the fourth National Finswimming Championship 2024, winning 151 medals, including 67 gold, 43 silver, and 41 bronze.
- Karnataka and Uttarakhand were the first and second runner-ups.
- The National championship was held at the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Swimming Pool Complex, New Delhi.

Jyothi Surekha wins Gold at Gt Open 2024

- India's veteran compound archers, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma clinched the gold and silver medals in their respective events at the GT Open in Strassen, Luxembourg.
- This was the second of the four Indoor World Series 250 Tournaments at the 2025 Indoor Archery season.

PV Sindhu to set up World-Class Badminton Centre in Visakhapatnam

- Indian badminton player and Olympic medallist PV Sindhu laid the foundation stone for the PV Sindhu Centre for Badminton and Sports Excellence.
- It will be located in Chinna Gadili village on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam. The centre spans three acres.
- The Andhra Pradesh government had allocated the land in 2021.

Zverev won the Paris Masters Final

- Alexander Zverev won his second Masters 1000 title of 2024 after defeating France's Ugo Humbert with a 6-2 score in the Paris Masters final.
- Zverev has now won seven ATP 1000-level titles in his career, including two wins in Rome and Madrid and victories in Montreal and Cincinnati.

North-East United FC clinches Governor's Gold Cup

- North-East United FC emerged victorious in the 40th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament, defeating Gangtok Himalayan SC in a dramatic penalty shootout.
- The final was held at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok.

- The Governor's Gold Cup is a prestigious football tournament, recognised for promoting talent and sportsmanship across India.

Divith Reddy becomes world champion in U-8 Cadets Chess Championship

- Eight-year-old Divith Reddy of Hyderabad was named chess champion in the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship.
- He has a FIDE rating of 1784 points and was tied in a three-way tie with compatriot Sattwik and Ziming Guo of China. However, he successfully claimed gold.

NADA imposes a four-year ban on Bajrang Punia.

- Bajrang Punia, India's Tokyo Olympics bronze medal-winning wrestler, was suspended by the NADA for four years for refusing to submit a sample for a doping test on March 10 during the national team selection trials.
- This decision came after NADA had initially suspended Bajrang Punia on April 23, 2024, for the same offence, which led to a subsequent suspension by the World Governing Body, UWW.
- This suspension means that he will not be allowed to participate in competitive wrestling nor seek coaching opportunities overseas, should he wish to do so.

Antonsen wins China Masters 2024

- Anders Antonsen defeated Jonathan Christie in 51 minutes to win the China Masters 2024 title, his fourth title this year, and solidify his position in the Race to the Finals rankings.
- He became the first Danish player to win the men's singles title at the China Masters.
- He secured his fourth BWF Tour title of 2024.

Reetika Hooda wins Gold at the World Military Championships

- In a remarkable feat for Indian wrestling, Reetika Hooda clinched the gold medal in the women's 76kg category at the World Military Championships.
- With this win, she became the second Indian woman after Jyoti Sihag to win gold at the event.
- It is for the first time that India sent a women's team to the championships

Team India creates history in Australia

- India dominated the first Test in Perth, crushing Australia by a massive 295 runs.

- This triumph marked India's biggest-ever victory, in terms of runs, on Australian soil in Tests.
- The win represented a remarkable turnaround for India, who entered the series under pressure following a humbling 3-0 home defeat against New Zealand.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi, 13, becomes the youngest player to be bought at IPL auction

- Vaibhav Suryavanshi scripted history as the 13-year-old became the youngest-ever player to be sold at an Indian Premier League (IPL) auction.
- Suryavanshi, who hails from a small village in Bihar, was roped in by Rajasthan Royals for INR 1.10 crore on day 2 of the IPL mega auction at the Abadi Al Johar Arena in Jeddah.

Italy clinches the fifth Billie Jean King Cup Title

- Italy won the Billie Jean King Cup for the fifth time as Jasmine Paolini beat Rebecca Sramkova to secure a dominant 2-0 win over Slovakia.
- The Billie Jean King Cup is the premier international team competition in women's tennis. It was originally called the Federation Cup when it was launched in 1963 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Tennis Federation.

Bihar to host Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) and Para Games in 2025

- Bihar will host the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 in April next year. The Para Games will follow the youth Games and there will be a 10 to 15 days gap between the two Games. The first edition of the Para Games was held in Delhi last year.
- KIYG is held in two categories, namely under-17-year-old school students and under-21 college students.
- The Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) is aimed at empowering para athletes in India.
- Bihar has 38 Khelo India Centres and one Khelo India State Centre of Excellence, which provide facilities for athletes at various levels.

Pankaj Advani wins the 28th IBSF World Billiards Championship

- India's Pankaj Advani won his 28th world title. He defeated Robert Hall of England 4-2 at the IBSF World Billiards Championship that took place in Doha.

- It also happened to be his seventh world title in a row, a streak that began in 2016.

India to host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in 2025

- The first-ever Kho Kho World Cup will be held from January 13 to 19, 2025 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor (IGI) Stadium in New Delhi.
- The tournament will feature an impressive line-up of 24 nations, with both men's and women's teams.
- It is being organised by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI).

Eden Gardens to rename stand in honour of Jhulan Goswami

- Jhulan Goswami will be the third cricketer and first Indian woman to be honoured with a stand in her name at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata.
- The Eden Gardens stands named after former India captain Sourav Ganguly and former international late Pankaj Roy, besides former BCCI presidents late Jagmohan Dalmiya and Biswanath Dutt.
- Jhulan, a native of Chakdaha in West Bengal's Nadia district, featured in 12 Tests, 204 ODIs, and 68 T20Is for India. She claimed 355 wickets across formats in a 20-year international career, the highest for any female bowler.
- She had become the first bowler to cross 300 international wickets in 2018. With 255 scalps, Goswami is still the only bowler with 200-plus wickets in women's ODIs. She also tops the charts in ODI World Cups, with 43 wickets.

India women's Hockey Team won the Asian Champions Trophy

- India women's hockey team won the Asian Champions Trophy by beating China 1-0.
- With this, India became only the second team to win the Women's Asian Champions Trophy for the second time in a row after South Korea.
- The finals were held at the Rajgir hockey stadium in Bihar.
- The Hockey Women's Asian Champions Trophy is a competition involving the top six nations from the Asian Hockey Federation's member associations. Founded in 2010, the tournament has been held seven times, in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023.

QUICK POINTS (NEWS IN SHORT)

- The President of India Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir, Zanda Chowk and addressed a public function at Silvassa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- India may invite Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto as chief guest for Republic Day 2025, with defence deals in sight.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated the country's first Constitution Museum at OP Jindal Global University in Sonapat, Haryana. The museum showcases a photolithographic copy of the Constitution, one of the thousand reproductions available, as its centrepiece.
- The United States has returned over 1,400 looted artefacts worth \$10 million to India as part of an ongoing initiative to repatriate stolen art from countries across South and Southeast Asia.
- The world's first high-altitude para sports centre dedicated to training and nurturing para-athletes in the country will be established in Leh, Ladakh.
- The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IOC-UNESCO) has recognised Communities of 24 tsunami-prone coastal villages of Odisha under six coastal districts- Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam- of Odisha as Tsunami Ready.
- AroTrack is a portable device developed by IIT Bombay. It detects water pollutants like phenol and benzene. The device can detect harmful pollutants like phenol and benzene in water, which utilises proteins from bacteria that thrive in contaminated environments.
- India has secured its re-election to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the 2025-2026 term, reaffirming its commitment to global peace initiatives.
- India has recently inaugurated its first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, Ladakh, which is a milestone in the green mobility sector. The project was completed by Amara Raja Infra for NTPC Ltd, which aims to promote emission-free transport in the region.
- Under the 'Advancing Rescue System for the Protection of Stranded Ganges River Dolphins' a specialised rescue vehicle, the 'Dolphin Ambulance', to assist dolphins in distress will be developed.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Income Tax Department's Permanent Account Number (PAN) 2.0 project. The upgrade includes the addition of a QR code to PAN cards, which will be provided free of charge to taxpayers.
- The Rajasthan government has introduced an interest subvention scheme. Farmers will receive a 7% interest subsidy on agricultural loans. For non-agricultural loans, the subsidy stands at 5%. This incentive applies if farmers repay their loans on time. The effective interest rate for those qualifying for the 7% subsidy will be 4%. Meanwhile, the 5% subsidy will reduce the interest to 3.5%.
- In a major boost to Kerala's tourism, the first seaplane was inaugurated from Bolgatty to Mattupetty Dam in Idukki district. The seaplane service, which comes under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), aims to enhance connectivity across Kerala's four airports and backwaters, offering subsidised fares.
- Kerala's agriculture department launched a pilot initiative NAWO-DHAN (New Agriculture Wealth Opportunities Driving Horticulture Agribusiness Networking). This project aims to enhance horticulture agribusiness. It targets land owners and cultivators who have shown interest.
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed STRONG (String Representation of Nanopore Geometry), a novel language that encodes nanopore shapes as character sequences. This helps train machine learning models to predict nanopore properties, enabling advanced applications like gas separation.
- The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to do away with the collection of garbage collection tax.
- Assam government officially renamed the Karimganj district to Sribhumi, along with its headquarters town, Karimganj, which will now be called Sribhumi town. This was done to honour the cultural heritage and historical significance of the region.
- Kerala launches a comprehensive cattle insurance scheme to support the dairy sector, combat climate change impacts, and provide welfare for the dairy sector in the state.
- The Indian Railways has launched 'Sanraksha', a mobile application specially designed for safety training and

capacity building for its frontline employees. The app was introduced by the South East Central Railway (SECR) to provide critical operational training to thousands of employees, giving instant evaluation of the learning and ensuring on-demand access to resources.

- Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, located in the Bankhandi area of Kangra's Dehra assembly constituency, will be the first zoo in India to receive certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- The Ministry of Tourism has approved 40 projects worth over US\$ 389.9 million (₹3,295 crore) across 23 states to develop lesser-known destinations into iconic tourist sites, promoting more balanced tourism distribution across India.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of its flagship initiative, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), under the aegis of NITI Aayog, with an enhanced scope of work and an allocated budget of ₹2,750 crore for the period till March 31, 2028. AIM 2.0 is a step towards Viksit Bharat that aims to expand, strengthen and deepen India's already vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) signed a MoU with the Department of Skill Education, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to promote commerce-based skill courses for students across the country.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for the PAN 2.0 Project of the Income Tax Department. The financial implications for the PAN 2.0 Project will ₹1435 crore.
- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the "Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network" (VISION), aimed at nurturing education, skill development, and innovation among underprivileged children.
- The government of Odisha and ICRISAT launched a Compendium of Regenerative Agriculture, which was developed by ICRISAT in partnership with the Government of Odisha.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh launched India's first practical AI Data Bank. This initiative aims to accelerate technological growth and innovation by providing researchers, startups, and developers access to high-quality, diverse datasets essential for creating scalable and inclusive AI solutions.
- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will embark on a statewide journey, 'Mahila Samvad Yatra' from December 15 to interact with women to make an on-the-spot assessment of the execution of various schemes launched to 'enable' women to become economically independent and self-reliant.
- Sultanganj railway station in Bhagalpur district, Bihar will be renamed after the revered Hindu shrine Ajgaibinath Dham.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has established a strategy cell in Coimbatore, to help businesses, especially in the manufacturing sector, develop sustainable growth strategies and become global players.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved three projects of the Ministry of Railways with a total cost of approximately ₹7,927 crore. The projects are Jalgaon-Manmad fourth line (160 km), Bhusawal-Khandwa third and fourth lines (131 km) and Prayagraj (Iradatganj)-Manikpur third line (84 km).
- The Union Cabinet approved the progressive expansion in the Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund' to make it more attractive, impactful and inclusive.
- The World Crafts Council (WCC) introduced the 'Seal of Authenticity of the Craft' for Kashmir's handicrafts. This certification recognises handmade crafts from Jammu and Kashmir, which marks traditional methods that have been used for centuries.
- Armenia has become the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance.
- Zimbabwe launched its second satellite, ZIMSAT-2 from Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome. This mission marks another step in the nation's commitment to space technology for supporting national development goals.
- Switzerland's contentious ban on facial coverings in public, commonly known as the "burqa ban," will officially take effect on January 1, 2025. Violators of the law could face fines of up to 1,000 Swiss francs (approximately ₹96,280). The Swiss government has clarified that the ban will not be applied universally.
- Gabon held a landmark referendum, where 91% of voters approved a new constitution, marking a significant political shift in the country. The constitution aims to end 55 years of dynastic rule and reintroduce a democratic civilian government.

- China unveiled a \$1.3 billion mega port in Chancay, Peru, majority-owned by Chinese shipping giant Cosco. It will connect South America to Asia and boost regional trade.
- Canada announced the closure of its Student Direct Stream (SDS) program for students from 14 countries, including India, China and Pakistan, effective November 9, 2024.
- SpaceX successfully launched KT SAT's Koreasat-6A communications satellite, enhancing broadcast and navigation services in South Korea.
- The world's second sixth-generation fully-stealth fighter aircraft has gained impetus with Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer giving the green signal for the strategically important project being co-developed by G7 member states - UK, Italy, and Japan. The project will merge two different military programs - the UK and Italy's Tempest Project, for which the UK had already pledged an initial 2 billion pounds, and Japan's F-X programme.
- Iraq is conducting its first nationwide census in nearly 40 years, marking a significant milestone for demographic data collection since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. The census aims to gather comprehensive information about the country's estimated 44 million residents.
- Nepal plans to sell electricity to Bangladesh annually during the rainy season, from June 15 to November 15. In the beginning, Nepal will export 40 MW of electricity generated in the country to Bangladesh via India.
- Sweden has expressed willingness to partner with India on green steel-making with the scope of collaboration that includes carrying out joint studies.
- Around 500 kg of crystal methamphetamine narcotics were seized from two fishing vessels in the Arabian Sea in a joint operation by the navies of India and Sri Lanka. The joint operation came after the Indian Navy's long-range maritime patrol aircraft and drones carried out a surveillance mission in the critical sea lanes based on inputs from the Sri Lankan Navy.
- Tata Power will invest ₹550 crore to develop solar and wind power capacities and related infrastructure to supply clean energy to Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will boost climate-related lending by up to \$7.2 billion following an agreement by the United States and Japan to provide risk guarantees for some existing loans. This marks the first-ever use of sovereign guarantees for climate finance.
- Nvidia and SoftBank have launched the world's first AI and 5G-integrated telecom network, 5G AI-RAN, capable of running both AI and 5G workloads concurrently. This innovation transforms traditional base stations into revenue-generating AI computing hubs.
- Royal Enfield has entered a new era in its 123-year history, launching a new EV brand, Flying Flea, which will help provide electric mobility solutions. The first model under the Flying Flea EV brand will arrive in 2026 and will be called the FF-C6.
- A High-Level Committee, under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah approved three projects of ₹725.62 crore under "Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services in the states" for Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal. The Committee has approved ₹147.76 crore for Chhattisgarh, ₹201.10 crore for Odisha and ₹376.76 crore for West Bengal. The HLC is composed of the Finance Minister, Agriculture Minister and Vice Chairman NITI Aayog as members.
- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme, organised jointly by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- GM Aravindh Chithambaram won the Chennai Grand Masters 2024 title after winning the last two classical games.
- FIFA has unveiled the official FIFA Club World Cup Trophy, crafted in collaboration with global luxury jeweller Tiffany & Co. for the Club World Cup.
- Indian professional boxer Mandeep Jangra won the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in the Cayman Islands.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) officially submitted a Letter of Intent to the Future Host Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), formally expressing India's interest in hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2036.
- GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) has received international acclaim for its

advancements in digital innovation, which won accolades at the 'Airport Excellence Awards' held during the Saudi Airport Exhibition 2024.

- Kunal Dalal, Managing Director, JBCN Education has been recognised as the Education Leader of the Year at the prestigious Education World India School Ranking Awards 2024-2025, concluded recently in Gurugram.
- The 25th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25) was held in New Delhi, India from November 11—13, 2024, gathering regulators, industry leaders, and experts from across South Asia.
- India Game Developer Conference (IGDC), a three-day initiative of the Game Developer Association of India, began in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 43rd edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- India hosted the 13th Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM) for the Asia-Pacific region.
- The tenth India International Science Festival (IISF) was held at IIT Guwahati. It was a four-day mega science festival featuring 24 different events in which 7000 delegates and 45000 people including a large number of students participated.
- Former Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has been appointed as the mentor of women's cricket operations by the Andhra Cricket Association, ACA. She retired from international cricket in 2022.
- Six-time Grand Slam champion and former women's doubles number one, Sania Mirza and former cricketer Harbhajan Singh have been named as Dubai Sports Ambassadors.