

Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.
CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (DECEMBER 2025)

INTERNATIONAL

Southeast Asia Flood–Landslide Toll Surges Past 600

The death toll from floods and landslides caused by torrential rains across three countries in Southeast Asia, climbed past 600. 435 were reported dead in Indonesia, 170 in Thailand, and three in Malaysia.

US Halts Immigration Processes for Applicants from 19 Non-European Nations

The Trump administration has suspended all immigration procedures including green card and citizenship applications for individuals from 19 non-European countries, citing national security and public safety concerns.

Canada concludes negotiations to join EU's Security Action for Europe

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has announced the conclusion of negotiations for Canada's participation in the European Union's Security Action for Europe (SAFE). With this agreement, Canada will become the only country outside of Europe with preferential access.

GCC Summit concludes with Sakhir Declaration

The 46th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit concluded in Manama with leaders adopting the Sakhir Declaration, reaffirming their commitment to deeper political, security and economic integration. Hosted at Bahrain's Sakhir Palace,

Death toll in cyclone-hit Sri Lanka reaches 479

The death toll in cyclone hit Sri Lanka has reached 479 with 350 still remaining missing, while the island braces for adverse weather conditions forecast for coming days.

India Backs UNGA Vote Extending UNRWA Mandate

India voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution renewing the mandate of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees for the next three years.

Australia, first country to ban Social Media for teenagers

Australia became the first country to formally bar users under the age of 16 from accessing major social media platforms, cutting off millions of children and teenagers under 16 from their accounts.

Over 100,000 Cambodians flee as border conflict with Thailand escalates

Over 100,000 Cambodian villagers have fled their homes for safe zones as border conflict with Thailand has entered a fourth day. The total number of displaced people is 101,129, including infants, children.

US launches fast-track Gold Card Visa

President Donald Trump has unveiled a fast-track Gold Card visa scheme, offering wealthy foreigners US residency and a path to citizenship for a minimum fee of one million dollars.

UNEA Adopts India's Resolution on Global Wildfire Management

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in Nairobi adopted India's resolution on strengthening global wildfire management, reflecting wide international support.

Europe reaches deal on phasing out Russian gas imports by 2027

The European Council has reached an agreement with the European Parliament on phasing out Russian gas imports by 2027 as part of an effort to end dependency on Russian energy.

Floods and landslides in Indonesia's Sumatra kill over one thousand people

In Indonesia, devastating floods and landslides in the northwestern island of Sumatra have killed over 1,000 people over the past fortnight.

At Least 12 Killed in Sydney Terror Attack

In Australia, at least 12 people, including one shooter, have been killed in an attack at Sydney's Bondi Beach, in what has been declared a terrorist incident. Twenty-nine people have been injured

Ukraine agrees to drop bid to join NATO

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has agreed to drop his country's bid to join NATO in exchange for Western security guarantees, but rejected the U.S. push for ceding territory to Russia as he held talks with the U.S.

Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarthak makes first-ever port call at Chabahar

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Sarthak, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, has made a port call at Chabahar, Iran. The ship will remain in the port till the 19th of this month.

Israel Signs Historic \$35 Billion Gas Agreement with Egypt

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has approved a \$35 billion natural gas export deal to Egypt, the biggest gas deal in Israeli history.

U.S. approves \$11 billion in arms sales to Taiwan

The United States has approved \$11 billion-worth of arms to Taiwan, announcing one of the largest weapons packages for the island nation.

US President signs NDAA 2026

US President Donald Trump has signed the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) for Financial Year 2026 into law, emphasising deeper US engagement with India and the Quad to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and address the challenge posed by China.

IMF Extends \$206 Million Emergency Support to Sri Lanka

The International Monetary Fund has approved emergency assistance of 206 million dollars for Sri Lanka under its Rapid Finance Instrument following the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah.

US expands online presence reviews for H-1B and H-4 visa applicants worldwide

The United States Department of State has expanded online presence reviews for all H-1B and H-4 visa applicants worldwide, effective from 15th of this month. The enhanced screening will apply to applicants of all nationalities as part of the standard visa vetting process.

Trump Administration Changes US H-1B Visa Process

In US, Trump Administration has announced sweeping changes to the H-1B work visa selection process, replacing the long-standing random lottery with a weighted system that prioritises higher-skilled and higher-paid foreign workers.

Cambodian civilian death toll rises to 21 as border conflict with Thailand enters 17th day

The civilian death toll in Cambodia has increased to 21, as the border conflict with Thailand has entered its 17th day. The Cambodia-Thailand border conflict has reigned since December 7, and both sides have accused the other of initiating the attack.

UN Security Council Urges Restraint as US-Venezuela Tensions Escalate

At an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council, several countries called on the United States and Venezuela to pursue dialogue amid rising tensions following US interdictions of oil tankers.

India Takes Over as Vice Chair of Kimberley Process

India has taken over as a Vice Chair of Kimberley Process from December 25, before assuming the chairpersonship from 1st January next year. The Kimberley Process is a tripartite initiative involving governments, the international diamond industry and civil society to prevent the trade in conflict diamonds.

Israel, first nation to formally recognise Somaliland as independent nation

Israel became the first country to formally recognise the self-declared Republic of Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state. Somaliland, officially the Republic of Somaliland, is an unrecognised state in the Horn of Africa.

Japan approves record defence budget plan

Japan's Cabinet has approved a record defence budget plan exceeding 58 billion US dollars for the coming year.

Thailand, Cambodia sign ceasefire agreement to halt fighting

Thailand and Cambodia have signed a ceasefire agreement to halt fighting along their disputed border. Both country's representatives have signed the agreement at a border checkpoint in Thailand's Chanthaburi province.

Kosovo votes in bid to end year-long political impasse

Kosovo held parliamentary election on December 28, 2025 as nationalist Prime Minister Albin Kurti's party seeks a majority to end a year-long political deadlock that has paralysed parliament and delayed international funding.

Sri Lanka extends state of public emergency following Ditwah cyclone

In Sri Lanka, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has extended the state of public emergency declared a month ago when the Ditwah cyclone made its landfall, leaving a trail of destruction.

US offers Ukraine security guarantees lasting 15 years under proposed peace plan

The United States has offered Ukraine security guarantees lasting 15 years under a proposed peace plan to end the war with Russia.

NATIONAL

India Hosts 20th UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee Session at Red Fort

India hosted the 20th session of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage-ICH from 8th till 13th of December at Red Fort in New Delhi.

Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine held in India

The second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, jointly organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayush. The theme of the summit is Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being.

India to provide 450-million-dollar reconstruction package to cyclone-hit Sri Lanka

India will provide a 450 million dollar package to assist in the reconstruction of areas affected by Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has announced.

India & Ethiopia sign three MoUs

Ethiopia & India have signed three MoUs to enhance cooperation in administrative assistance in customs matters, data centre establishment at the embassy of Ethiopia and cooperation in UN peacekeeping. India and Ethiopia have also elevated their historical ties to a strategic partnership.

Indigenous stealth frigate 'Taragiri' delivered to the Indian Navy

Indigenous advanced stealth frigate 'Taragiri', endowed with state-of-the-art combat capabilities, has been delivered to the Indian Navy. The fourth ship of Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) and the third one built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilding Ltd (MDL).

PM Modi's Jordan Visit to Strengthen Strategic and Economic Ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Jordan on the invitation of King Abdullah II, marking his first full bilateral engagement with the country and coinciding with 75 years of diplomatic ties.

MHA writes to Governors and L-G's to consider renaming Raj Bhavans as Lok Bhavans

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has announced that Raj Bhavans in all states and Raj Niwases in Union Territories will be renamed as Lok Bhavans and Lok Niwases, respectively

14th edition of India-Maldives bilateral exercise EKUVERIN held in Kerala

The 14th edition of the annual India-Maldives bilateral exercise EKUVERIN was held during December 2-15th of this month in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The exercise was conducted between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces.

Indira Gandhi International Airport becomes first in India to achieve "water-positive" status

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the first airport to achieve water positive status in the country with a capacity of more than 40 million passengers per annum.

SC Declares Illegal Immigrants Have No Legal Rights in India

The Supreme Court ruled that illegal immigrants and intruders have no legal right in India, stressing that the country cannot extend a "red carpet" to those who enter unlawfully.

PM Modi Renames Prime Minister's Office as 'Seva Tirth'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has renamed the Prime Minister's Office as 'Seva Tirth', highlighting the government's focus on service-oriented governance.

DRDO Achieves Breakthrough With Successful Test of Fighter Aircraft Escape System

DRDO has successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of a fighter aircraft escape system in Chandigarh, validating canopy severance, ejection sequencing and complete aircrew recovery.

4th Edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam Opens in Varanasi

The fourth Kashi Tamil Sangamam was inaugurated in Varanasi by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Tamil Nadu Adds Five New GI Tags

Tamil Nadu has secured GI recognition for five products—Woraiyur cotton sari, Kavindapadi jaggery, Namakkal soapstone cookware, Thooyamalli rice and Ambasamudram wooden toys—taking its total to 74 GI tags.

Indian film 'Homebound' shortlisted for Best International Feature Film at Oscars 2026

The Indian movie 'Homebound', directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, has been shortlisted for the 98th Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Film category. Homebound is among 15 films that have become 'eligible' for 'final' nominations in the International Feature Film category at the Oscars 2026.

LS passes Excise Bill 2025 to raise excise duties and cess on tobacco products

The Lok Sabha has passed the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The proposed law aimed to amend the Central Excise Act, 1944, specifically to raise excise duties and cess on tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, hookah tobacco, chewing tobacco, zarda and scented tobacco.

Centre removes mandatory pre-installation of Sanchar Saathi app

In view of increasing acceptance of Sanchar Saathi app, the Union government has decided not to make the pre-installation of this app mandatory for mobile manufacturers.

Indian Army successfully conducts combat launch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

The Indian Army has successfully carried out a combat missile launch of the BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile from a test range in the Bay of Bengal. The missile demonstrated high-speed flight stability and terminal precision, striking its designated target accurately.

BDL Wins ₹2,461.62 Crore Defence Orders From Indian Army

Bharat Dynamics Ltd has reported new defence orders adding up to ₹2,461.62 crore. The orders cover anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) and surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), placed under emergency procurement by the Indian Army.

Putin Arrives in New Delhi for 23rd India-Russia Summit
Russian President Vladimir Putin has arrived in New Delhi on a state visit to India for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit. Prime Minister Modi and President Putin will hold talks at Hyderabad House.

Sahkar Taxi Cooperative begins soft launch of Bharat Taxi in Delhi, Gujarat

The Sahkar Taxi Cooperative, touted as the world's first national mobility cooperative owned by drivers, has kickstarted beta consumer trials of the 'Bharat Taxi' service in the national capital and Gujarat.

15th edition of International Sand Art Festival held in Odisha

The 15th edition of the International Sand Art Festival, a renowned cultural event that annually takes place on the beautiful Chandrabhaga Beach, was held near the historic Konark Sun Temple.

Labour codes likely to be fully operational from April 1, 2026

The four labour codes ushering another wave of reforms in the country are likely to be fully operational from April 1, 2026 as the ministry has begun the process for enforcing rules under the notified law.

India-Russia ink 16 agreements

India and Russia exchanged sixteen agreements in areas related to defence, trade, economy, healthcare, academics, culture and media during the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit in New Delhi.

India-Indonesia joint special forces exercise 'Garuda Shakti' held

The 10th edition of the India-Indonesia joint special forces exercise 'Garuda Shakti' was conducted from December 3-12 at the Special Forces Training School, Baklooh, in the hill state of Himachal Pradesh.

NITI Aayog & IBM Unveil Roadmap to Make India a Top-3 Quantum Economy by 2047

The NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub, in partnership with International Business Machines-IBM, has released a national roadmap to transform India into one of the world's top-three quantum economies by 2047.

Amit Shah inaugurates 'Earth Summit 2025' in Gujarat
Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has inaugurated EARTH Summit 2025 at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat. During the summit, Amit Shah launched more than 13 new services and products under 'Sahakar Sarathi'.

India Post Signs Agreement with Russia Post

The Department of Posts signed a Bilateral Agreement on the International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS) with JSC Russia Post. Under the agreement, India Post will be able to offer this service to exporters at competitive tariffs, improving price competitiveness and market access for Indian sellers.

11th India International Science Festival held in Panchkula

The 11th India International Science Festival (IISF) was held at Dussehra Ground in Panchkula, inaugurated by Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh along with Haryana Minister Krishna Bedi.

Fifth edition of Joint Military exercise "Exercise Harimau Shakti -2025"

The Fifth edition of Joint Military exercise "Exercise Harimau Shakti -2025" was held in Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan. The exercise was conducted from 05 to 18 December 2025. The aim of this exercise is to jointly rehearse conduct of Sub Conventional Operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Mandate.

IGNCA Unveils Abhijeet Joag's Book on India's Cultural Identity

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has launched the book "Bharat: That Is India – Reclaiming Our Real Identity" by Abhijeet Joag in New Delhi.

India Participates at 4th Annual Quad Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster in Honolulu, Hawaii

India participated in the 4th annual Quad Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response tabletop exercise and strategic meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Genesys Unveils India's First 3D Subsurface Mapping System

Genesys International has launched India's first 3D subsurface mapping solution, addressing a critical global requirement in modern infrastructure development.

Odisha hosts Global Energy Leaders' Summit 2025 in Puri

Odisha state government has hosted the Global Energy Leaders' Summit (GELS) 2025 at Puri in the first week of December. The summit, organised in partnership with TBI and IIT Kanpur, was inaugurated by CM Mohan Charan Majhi.

Rajasthan first state to digitise 100% of voter rolls under SIR

Rajasthan has completed 100 per cent digitisation of its electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), becoming the first state in the country to do so.

Surya Kiran-19 Strengthens India-Nepal Military Coordination

The Indian and Nepal Armies conducted a two-day battalion-level validation exercise under Surya Kiran-19 in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, showcasing high levels of interoperability and coordinated counter-terror operations.

UNESCO adds Deepavali to Intangible Cultural Heritage List

Deepavali has been inscribed on the UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, announced at the 20th UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee session at New Delhi's Red Fort from December 8-13, 2025. It is the 16th Indian element on this list.

IIT Bombay's SINE Launches India's First Incubator-Linked Deep Tech VC Fund

IIT Bombay's SINE has launched India's first incubator-linked deep tech venture capital fund named, the Y-Point Venture Capital Fund. The fund aims to support India's deep tech startups by providing crucial risk capital at an early stage of their journey.

8th Edition of Smart India Hackathon 2025 Begins: MIC

The 8th edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025, announced by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC), Government of India, in collaboration with AICTE, was held across 60 nodal centres in the country.

Indian Navy and Brazilian Navy sign MoU in Brasilia to boost Scorpène-class maintenance cooperation

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, has announced the signing of a MoU with the Indian Navy (IN) and the Brazilian Navy (BN) at Brasilia, Brazil, to strengthen cooperation in the maintenance of Scorpène-class submarines and other naval ships, marking a significant milestone in India-Brazil defence collaboration.

Supreme Court reconstitutes AI Committee to oversee adoption and deployment of AI tools

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has reconstituted the Artificial Intelligence Committee of the Supreme Court to oversee initiatives relating to the adoption, development and deployment of AI tools in the judiciary. The four-member committee will be headed by the Supreme Court's Justice P S Narasimha.

Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025 Celebrated Under 'Many Languages, One Emotion' Theme

The Ministry of Education has organised the Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025 on the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati on 11th December, at National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi, celebrating India's rich linguistic diversity under the theme "Many Languages, One Emotion" as its theme.

Centre sets target of 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030

The Centre has set targets of 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030, with a total outlay of 85,000 crore rupees. Through gasification, India will produce Urea and other Chemicals at an affordable rate, which will directly help farmers.

Cabinet Clears CoalSETU Policy

The Union Cabinet has approved the CoalSETU policy to enable seamless, efficient and transparent auction of coal linkages for industrial use and exports.

Cabinet Clears ₹11,718 Crore for India's First Digital Census in 2027

The Union Cabinet has approved a budget of ₹11,718 crore for Census 2027, to be conducted in two phases. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said it will be India's first fully digital census, covering the entire population and including caste enumeration.

AIIMS New Delhi Trials India's First Indigenous Advanced Stroke Device

AIIMS New Delhi has conducted India's first clinical trial of an advanced stroke treatment device, the Supernova Stent. Designed for India's diverse and younger stroke-prone population, it is the first stroke device approved based on a domestic clinical trial.

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, and HUL Partner to Accelerate Transition to Circular Economy

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has partnered with Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) to launch a nationwide start-up acceleration programme aimed at promoting a circular economy in India.

Lok Sabha refers Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill to JPC

The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha, has been referred to the Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC) for further scrutiny. The bill aims to empower the Universities and other higher educational institutions to achieve excellence in teaching, learning, research and innovation.

Lok Sabha passes Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha Bill 2025

The Lok Sabha has passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill 2025. The bill proposes to increase the FDI limit in Indian Insurance companies from 74% to 100% of the paid-up equity capital.

University Of Patanjali Designated As Cluster Centre

The University of Patanjali has been formally designated as a Cluster Centre under the Gyan Bharatam Mission of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Dhruv64: India's First Homegrown 64-Bit Dual-Core Microprocessor Unveiled

Dhruv64, a 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor, was unveiled as India's first homegrown chip. The fully-indigenous CPU was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP).

AP's 'Ponduru Khadi' gets GI tag

Ponduru Khadi, which was appreciated by Mahatma Gandhi 100 years ago got Geographical Indication tag for Khadi products of Ponduru, located 20 km away from Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh.

Indian Army receives three AH-64E Apache Helicopters from Boeing

The Indian Army has received three AH-64E Apache helicopters from US-based aerospace major Boeing. Earlier in July this year, the company delivered three Apache helicopters.

Indian Navy commissions first indigenous Diving Support Craft DSC A20 in Kochi

The Indian Navy has commissioned DSC A20, the first of five Diving Support Craft (DSC) being built indigenously by Titagarh Rail System, at a ceremony held at the Naval Base in Kochi.

NHAI introduces India's first wildlife-safe road

In a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at balancing road development with conservation, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced innovative 'table-top red road markings' on a key stretch of National Highway 45 in Madhya Pradesh.

India & Oman ink CEPA

India and Oman signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which will open doors for overall development and trade in various sectors for both countries. Both friendly Nations are marking the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.

AFMS launches India's first AI-driven community screening programme for diabetic retinopathy

The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) has launched India's first Artificial Intelligence-driven community screening programme for Diabetic Retinopathy. This initiative has been undertaken by the AFMS in collaboration with AIIMS and the e-Health AI Unit of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

India and Argentina sign Work Plan 2025-27

India and Argentina have signed the Work Plan 2025-27 in New Delhi to boost bilateral agricultural research and technology exchange.

Railways commissions over 2,000 km of Kavach system to enhance safety

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that over two thousand route kilometres of the Kavach system have been commissioned on Indian Railways.

India-UAE joint military exercise Desert Cyclone-II held in Abu Dhabi

An Indian Army contingent has departed for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to participate in the second edition of the India-UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE-II, scheduled to be conducted at Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 18 to 30 December 2025.

India and Saudi Arabia Sign Visa Waiver Agreement to Facilitate Official Travel

India and Saudi Arabia signed a bilateral visa waiver agreement in Riyadh to facilitate official travels and boost bilateral exchanges under the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council.

Parliament passes Viksit Bharat G RAM G Bill 2025

Parliament has passed the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): Viksit Bharat – G RAM G Bill, 2025. Under the legislation, a statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage employment will be provided in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work.

IAF, Russian air force take part in 'Exercise Avialndra'

The Indian Air Force has hosted 'Exercise Avialndra', a joint exercise with the Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFASF) from December 15-22, 2025. Personnel from both nations are involved in joint flying operations.

ICG Ship Amulya commissioned at Goa

The Indian Coast Guard- ICG Ship Amulya, the third vessel of the new-generation Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels, was commissioned at Goa. ICG Ship Amulya will carry out coastal surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue, anti-smuggling, and pollution response operations along the eastern coast.

SHANTI Bill gets Presidential Assent

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, passed by the Parliament during the Winter Session, received the Presidential Assent. The Bill subsumes all laws dealing with the civil nuclear sector and also opens it up for participation by private players.

Centre to set up a statutory Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has convened a high-level meeting to initiate the constitution of a dedicated Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) to enhance the security of vessels and port facilities across the country.

Piyush Goyal attends World Hindu Economic Forum 2025

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has attended the World Hindu Economic Forum 2025 in Mumbai.

INS Sindhughosh decommissioned

INS Sindhughosh, the lead submarine of her class with the Indian Navy, has been decommissioned after 40 years of glorious service to the nation. The decommissioning ceremony took place at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

DRDO and Rashtriya Raksha University Sign MoU for defence and internal security

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) have signed an agreement to foster collaboration in the areas of research, education, training, and technology support for defence and internal security.

INSV Kaundinya undertook its maiden overseas voyage
INSV Kaundinya, the Indian Navy's pioneering stitched sailing vessel that revives India's ancient shipbuilding and seafaring traditions, undertook its maiden overseas voyage on the 29th of this month. The vessel was flagged off from Porbandar, Gujarat, for Muscat, Oman

ICG inducts First Pollution Control Vessel

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has inducted the first Pollution Control Vessel, Samudra Pratap, at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). Samudra Pratap is the first indigenously designed and built Pollution Control Vessel of the Indian Coast Guard.

India Records Sharp Decline in Malaria, TB and Maternal Mortality: JP Nadda

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda said India has achieved over an 80 per cent reduction in malaria cases and a 78 per cent fall in related deaths, marking a major public health transition. He noted progress in tuberculosis control with a 21 per cent decline in incidence.

Centre Orders Complete Ban on New Mining Leases in Aravalli Range

The Centre has directed States to impose a complete ban on granting new mining leases across the Aravalli Range, stretching from Delhi to Gujarat, to curb illegal mining and protect the fragile ecosystem.

President Murmu releases Constitution in Santhali language

President Droupadi Murmu has released the Constitution in the Santhali language at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The Constitution is now available in the Santhali language, written in the Ol Chiki script.

Atal Canteen Launched in Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurated the 'Atal Canteen' in the national capital, on the occasion of the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

PM inaugurates Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, UP

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh to honour the life and ideals of Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Constructed at a cost of Rs 230 crore and spread across an expansive area of 65 acres.

Navi Mumbai International Airport starts commercial flight operations

The Navi Mumbai International Airport has commenced commercial flight operations, marking a key milestone for India's civil aviation sector. The airport is also expanding air travel capacity for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

ISRO, LVM3-M6 launches its heaviest satellite

ISRO has successfully launched and placed the next-generation US communication satellite BlueBird Block-2 into its intended orbit. The US satellite was onboard ISRO's heaviest vehicle, LVM3-M6, from Sriharikota. BlueBird Block-2 weighs 6,100 kilograms (over 6 tons), making it the largest-ever commercial communications satellite to be deployed in low Earth orbit (LEO).

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Marks 25 Years of Transforming Rural Connectivity

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) marks its 25th anniversary on December 25. Since its inception, over 8 lakh 25 thousand kilometres of rural roads have been sanctioned under PM Gram Sadak Yojana, with more than 7 lakh 87 thousand kilometres completed.

India Launches OCND: AI-Powered Weapon Against Organised Crime

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the country's first national-level Organised Crime Network Database (OCND), a cutting-edge AI-powered platform designed to dismantle organised crime syndicates by integrating fragmented intelligence spread across states and agencies.

India Tests K-4 Missile From Nuclear-Powered Submarine

India has tested an intermediate-range ballistic missile launched from a nuclear-capable submarine. The K-4 missile was test-fired from the nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighat in the Bay of Bengal. The test was conducted off the coast of Vishakhapatnam. Designed to hit targets 3,500 km away.

VoxelGrids builds India's first indigenous MRI scanner
VoxelGrids, a Zoho-backed start-up, has developed the country's first indigenous MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanner. The scanner, which has been deployed at Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation near Nagpur.

PM Modi Chairs 5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the 5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi, aimed at strengthening Centre-State partnership through cooperative federalism.

REPM Scheme to Build India's First Integrated Manufacturing Ecosystem for High-Value Magnets

The Government of India has approved over ₹7,000 crore for the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) to create India's first fully integrated domestic ecosystem for high-value magnets.

India Conducts RPEx-2025 to Strengthen Maritime Oil Spill Preparedness

RPEx-2025, a large-scale regional pollution response exercise, was conducted off the Mumbai coast to enhance India's preparedness for marine oil spill emergencies under the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan.

President Murmu Creates History, Undertakes Sortie on Submarine INS Vagheer

President Droupadi Murmu has undertaken a sea sortie on INS Vagheer (S26), India's sixth and final Kalvari-class submarine, from Karwar Naval Base in Karnataka.

Supercomputer launched at IIT-Patna to boost research

The first Param Rudra supercomputer in Bihar has gone live at Indian Institute of Technology, Patna under the National Supercomputing Mission, marking a milestone moment for the state.

SC stays its earlier judgement concerning change in definition of Aravalli Hills

The Supreme Court has stayed its own order issued on 20th November on the Aravalli hills and the Aravalli range definition. Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices JK Maheshwari and AG Masih has also ordered the formation of a new expert committee to examine issues that require to be examined in terms of the definition of Aravallis.

India successfully conducts maiden flight test of 120-km range Pinaka rocket

DRDO has successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur. The rocket was tested for its maximum range of 120 km, demonstrating all in-flight manoeuvres as planned.

Ministry of Science and Technology develops software PathGennie

The Ministry of Science and Technology has developed new open-source software, PathGennie, for fast tracking of drug discovery. The Ministry informed that this open-source software predicts the potential drugs unbind from their protein targets without the artificial distortions commonly used in standard methods.

India to host AI Impact Summit in February next year

India will host the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi in February 2026. The India AI Impact Summit, which will begin on the 15th of February, will conclude on the 20th.

BANKING & ECONOMY

NBBL Rolls Out Banking Connect Platform To Simplify Net Banking

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) has introduced Banking Connect, an interoperable platform aimed at simplifying internet and mobile banking.

India to lead emerging market growth with 7% GDP rise in 2025: Moody's

Moody's Ratings said with a 7% GDP expansion in 2025 and 6.4% in the next year, India will lead growth among emerging markets and across the Asia Pacific region

Amazon, Flipkart take aim at India's banks with new consumer loan offerings

Amazon is preparing to offer loans to small businesses in India, while Walmart-owned Flipkart is looking at buy-now, pay-later (BNPL) products as the e-commerce giants take on the country's banks with a push into financial products.

RBI imposes monetary penalty on HDFC Bank

The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 91 lakh on HDFC Bank Limited for violating provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and for not complying with RBI directions on interest rates on advances, outsourcing of financial services and KYC norms.

About 11 million microfinance borrowers out of the formal credit system

As per the data from Crif High Mark, about 11 million low-income borrowers have exited India's formal credit system as microfinance lenders, beset with asset-quality challenges, progressively slowed lending to customers at the base of the economic pyramid.

Decathlon to invest €100 million by 2030

Decathlon, the French sports gear and fitness equipment brand, said it would hire 2,500 new people, double revenues to ₹8,000 crore and invest €100 million in India by 2030.

RBI issues 244 consolidated Master Directions, repeals many to reduce compliance burden

The RBI has issued 244 consolidated Master Directions (MD) after undertaking a review exercise pertaining to approximately 3500 directions, circulars, and guidelines issued over the years, to reduce compliance burden on the Regulated Entities (REs).

RBI Governor Unveils National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2025-30

The RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra has formally released the national strategy for financial inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30. The strategy of NSFI 2025-30 is anchored in five objectives, termed Panch-Jyoti: Expanding equitable and affordable services, promoting women-led inclusion, linking finance with livelihoods, leveraging financial education, and strengthening customer protection.

AU Small Finance Bank ropes in Ranbir, Rashmika as brand ambassadors

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), which recently received the RBI's in-principle approval to transition into a universal bank, has roped in film actors Ranbir Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna as its brand ambassadors.

RBI promotes Usha Janakiraman as ED

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Usha Janakiraman as Executive Director (ED) with effect from December 1, 2025.

IIP growth rises 0.4% in October

India's industrial production growth, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), rose 0.4 per cent in October, easing sharply from 4.6 per cent in September.

BoI & SBI Sign MoU to Establish Centre of Excellence

Bank of India (BoI) and State Bank of India (SBI) signed a MoU to create a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Strategic Partnership, focusing on building leadership in Project Financing in India.

FDI rise 18% to \$35.18 billion in April-September

Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in India rose 18% to \$35.18 billion during April-September of this fiscal year, while the inflow from the U.S. more than doubled to \$6.62 billion during the period. Singapore was the largest source of FDI during the period, contributing \$11.94 billion.

Among states, Maharashtra received the highest inflow of \$10.57 billion during the period.

Fish production increased to 197 lakh tonnes in 2023-24

Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh has said that India's fish exports have doubled in the last ten years to over 62 thousand crore rupees. In 2013-14, the country's fish export stood at over 30 thousand crore rupees. The fish production, which was 95.7 lakh tonnes in 2013-14, has increased to 197 lakh tonnes in 2023-24.

PM Modi urges citizens to join 'Your Money, Your Right' movement

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon citizens to take part in the Your Money, Your Right movement. Sharing a LinkedIn post, the Prime Minister said that it is a chance for citizens to convert a forgotten financial asset into a new opportunity.

PNB Appoints Harmanpreet Kaur as First Female Brand Ambassador

Punjab National Bank has appointed Indian women's cricket captain and World Cup champion Harmanpreet Kaur as its first-ever female brand ambassador, marking a key milestone in its brand transformation.

RBI Directs Banks to Expand Regional Language Services

The RBI has tightened customer-service norms by mandating wider use of regional languages across all banking touchpoints. Banks must now adopt a Board-approved policy to ensure essential documents like account opening forms, passbooks, pay-in slips and grievance details are available in Hindi, English and the local language.

Centre Unveils Digital Credit Assessment Model to Speed Up MSME Loan Approvals

The Centre has launched the Credit Assessment Model (CAM) to streamline and accelerate loan approvals for MSMEs by using digital data (GST, bank statements, Udyam) for automated, objective creditworthiness checks, reducing paperwork, branch visits, and turnaround times (TAT).

RBI Retains SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as 'Too Big to Fail' Institutions in 2025 D-SIB List

The RBI has confirmed that SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank will continue as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2025. As D-SIBs, they must maintain higher capital buffers under the CET-1 framework to absorb shocks and prevent systemic disruption in the economy.

OECD retains India's FY26 growth outlook at 6.7%

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has maintained India's economic growth steady at 6.7% in FY26, keeping it as one of the fastest-growing economies in the year.

RBI approves appointment of Vikram Sahu as CEO of Bank of America

The RBI has approved the appointment of Vikram Sahu as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Bank of America NA (BoFA) in India.

LIC appoints Ramakrishnan Chander as MD

Life Insurance Corporation of India announced that Ramakrishnan Chander has been appointed as its Managing Director, with effect from December 1.

GST collection at slower pace of 0.7% to ₹1.70 lakh cr in November

India's GST collection in November slowed to ₹1.70 lakh crore (a 0.7% rise), its weakest pace since the pandemic, primarily due to the recent GST rate rationalization (tax simplification) reducing revenue in the short term.

Complaints against PSU banks fell

As per the RBI data, the share of complaints received against private sector banks was the highest and increased to 37.53% of total complaints in 2024-25 from 34.39% in 2023-24, while the share of complaints received against the public sector bank declined to 34.80% in 2024-25 from 38.32% in 2023-24 to 34.80% in 2024-25.

MoT & Mastercard sign MoU to strengthen India's position as a global tourism hotspot

The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and Mastercard have signed a two-year MoU to boost India's appeal as a premium destination for domestic and international travelers.

RBI Annual Ombudsman Scheme report out

The RBI has published two key publications that is, the Annual Report of the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) 2024-25 and the Balance of Payments (BoP) Report for Q2 FY26. The two publications give a comprehensive view of the trends in customer complaints and the performance of the country's external sector.

According to the RB-IOS Annual Report, FY 2024–25 recorded 13.34 lakh complaints, marking a 13.55 per cent rise over the previous financial year.

IndiGo cancels 550 flights

Chaos persisted at airports across the country as IndiGo's flight delays stretched into December 4, 2025, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights.

Iran's currency falls to a new low

Iran's rial currency fell on December 3, 2025 to a new low of 1.2 million to the U.S. dollar as nuclear sanctions squeeze Tehran's ailing economy.

Razorpay gets RBI's approval

Razorpay has secured the RBI's licence for cross-border payment aggregation to facilitate both inward and outward cross-border payments with complete regulatory oversight.

Banks have to offer mobile banking for basic accounts: RBI

Banks must offer mobile and internet banking services even for basic savings accounts and cannot charge for deposit of cash either at the bank branch or through channels, like ATMs or business correspondents for these accounts, RBI has clarified in the amended directions on basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) accounts. The new directions are effective from 1 April 2026.

Govt to divest up to 6% stake in Bank of Maharashtra

The Centre has decided to divest up to 6 % stake in state-owned Bank of Maharashtra through an Offer for Sale. At the current market price, the centre would be able to garner about Rs 2,600 crore by offloading up to 6 % stake in the bank. Centre currently holds a 79.60% stake.

RBI's December 2025 bi-monthly monetary policy

The RBI released its bi-monthly monetary policy after the Monetary Policy Committee unanimously voting to cut repo rate by 25 bps to 5.25%.

The Standing Deposit Facility rate under the LAF shall stand adjusted to 5%

Marginal Standing Facility and bank rate at 5.5%.

It raised FY26 GDP growth estimates to 7.3% from 6.8% earlier. It reduced FY26 CPI inflation forecast to 2% from 2.6% earlier. To inject liquidity into the banking system, the central bank decided to conduct Open market operations, OMO purchases of Government Securities amounting to ₹1 lakh crore, and also conduct a 3-year USD/INR buy-sell swaps of \$5 billion in December.

Just 9 Fugitive Economic Offenders owe ₹58,000 crore

Just nine Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEOs) owed Indian banks over ₹58,000 crore in principal and interest, of which ₹19,000 crore was recovered. Despite having arrest warrants issued against them, these FEOs have left India and refuse to return to avoid criminal prosecution.

India cuts Russian oil imports by 38% in October 2025

India cuts its oil imports from Russia by 38% in value terms and 31% in volume terms in October 2025 as compared to last year, with the cuts driven by a high base effect as well as an overall reduction in India's oil imports.

India's UPI to be accepted in Cambodia

NPCI International Payments has partnered with Cambodia-based ACLEDA Bank to enable the acceptance of homegrown real-time payments rails UPI in the Southeast Asian country.

HAL leads as Indian defence giants:SIPRI

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) remained India's leading defense manufacturer with \$3.8 billion in arms revenue, according to a SIPRI report 2025, though its global rank slipped slightly from 42nd to 44th. Lockheed Martin topped the global list with \$62 billion in arms revenues.

Russia's Sberbank to invest \$100 mn to expand operations in India: CEO

Sberbank, Russia's largest lender plans to gradually expand its business in India and would invest about USD 100 million over the next three years to take advantage of the growing Indian market.

India's smartphone export to U.S. triples in October

India's smartphone exports to the U.S. more than three-fold year-on-year to \$1.47 billion in October despite global challenges.

Jindal Stainless Leads Sustainability Efforts in Steel Sector

Jindal Stainless has secured the fourth position in the steel sector and top spot in the stainless steel category worldwide for sustainability. The company achieved an ESG score of 78 in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index Corporate Sustainability Assessment, placing it among the top 5% of global steel companies.

BPCL Named Among the Global Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has been recognised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Mind the Bridge as one of the Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars worldwide. Launched in 2016, BPCL's innovation platform 'Ankur' has supported 30 startups.

India and Russia Target USD 100 Billion Trade by 2030

India and Russia have pledged to boost bilateral trade to 100 billion dollars by 2030, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing confidence that the goal will be achieved ahead of schedule.

Fino Payments Bank gets RBI nod to become a small finance bank

Fino Payments Bank has received Reserve Bank of India's in-principle approval for conversion into a small finance bank, making it the first one among its peers to do so.

PNB launches premium RuPay metal credit card

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced a new RuPay metal credit card, 'Luxura', aimed at customers in the premium segment.

SEBI Approves Registration of Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust

National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has received SEBI's approval of registration to Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust, which is a public Infrastructure Investment Trust aimed at enabling broad-based public participation in national highway monetisation.

RBI asks banks to ringfence non-core business

The RBI has directed banks to submit a detailed roadmap by March 2026 on how they will ringfence their core banking operations from riskier non-core businesses, marking a shift in regulatory approach to strengthen group-level risk management.

Unclaimed deposits in Oct reduced by ₹760 cr

Unclaimed deposits in October saw a reduction of around ₹760 crore as a result of a government campaign and incentives to banks from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murmu said.

Russia's Gazprombank, Alfa Bank seek RBI approval to set up India branches

Russian lenders Gazprombank and Alfa Bank have sought clearance to begin operating in India. Alfa Bank is Russia's largest privately-owned lender and has been under Western sanctions since 2022 when Moscow launched its full invasion of Ukraine.

Sebi launches PaRRVA

SEBI has launched the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)-- a new verification mechanism designed to authenticate past performance claims made by regulated market intermediaries. Care Ratings in collaboration with the NSE has launched PaRRVA on a pilot basis.

Jan Dhan accounts hold Rs 2.75 lakh crore in banks

Jan Dhan accounts across the country currently hold balances of about Rs 2.75 lakh crore, translating to an average of Rs 4,815 per account.

Crypto transactions in India crossed ₹51,000 crore in 2024-25

The value of cryptocurrency transactions in India exceeded ₹51,000 crore in 2024-25, according to an analysis of data shared with Parliament, representing a 41% increase over the previous year.

RBI Approves Airpay as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator

Airpay has secured RBI approval to operate as a cross-border payment aggregator, completing its authorisation under the unified PA framework.

Government Directs IndiGo to Cut 10% Domestic Flights Amid Operational Crisis

The Central government has instructed IndiGo to reduce its domestic flight operations by 10% through March, following severe disruptions caused by crew rostering issues under new FDTL rules.

Amazon announces to invest 35 billion dollar in India by 2030

Amazon announced that it would invest \$35 billion in India in the coming years until 2030. The investment would be infused into all of Amazon's operations in India, spanning its retail operations and its cloud and AI wings, Amazon Web Services.

Microsoft announces over \$17.5 Billion investment in India

Microsoft has pledged an investment of 17.5 billion US dollars in India to help build infrastructure, skills, and sovereign capabilities for AI future in the country. Microsoft is committing its largest investment ever in Asia.

ADB raises India's growth forecast to 7.2%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised its growth forecast for India to 7.2 per cent, up from 6.5 per cent, for the financial year 2025-26.

SEBI to Ban Use of Live Market Data for Investor Education

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey has said, the markets regulator will soon amend its rules to prohibit the use of current live market data for investor education, with permission to use only past market data.

India's Tata signs up Intel as first major customer

India's Tata Electronics has secured Intel as the first prospective customer for its upcoming chip facilities, potentially signalling the U.S. chipmaker's confidence in India's manufacturing ambitions.

Seven States contribute more to total taxes than their share in devolutions from the Centre

Seven States contribute a higher share in total tax collections in the country than their share in what they get back from the Centre as devolution. Uttar Pradesh accounted for 4.6% of the total tax collected in the country between 2020-21 and 2024-25, but received 15.8% of the taxes shared by the Centre during this period.

Sahaj gets corporate agency licence from IRDAI

Sahaj Insurance Services Pvt Ltd, which recently received a corporate agency licence from IRDAI, aims to sell about 10 crore insurance policies designed to suit the rural population.

DBS Named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker

DBS has been named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker, part of the Financial Times Group. This is the bank's third win in the category after 2018 and 2021. It also secured Asia Bank of the Year, Singapore Bank of the Year, Investment Bank of the Year – Asia, and Investment Bank of the Year for Financial Institutions Group.

Mexico Slaps 50% Tariffs On India

Mexico has approved levies of up to 50 per cent on the import of select products from Asian countries, including from India and China. The tariffs that are imposed to protect the national industry and producers are set to come into effect from January 1, 2026.

SBI, BoB to set up fraud detection platform

SBI and Bank of Baroda have received RBI approval to set up a company for creating a "Digital Payments Intelligence Platform". It is being set up to detect and prevent fraudulent digital transactions in public sector banks.

Indian-origin Arkin Gupta features in Forbes Under-30 for financial innovation

Indian-origin Arkin Gupta has made it to the Forbes list of achievers under the age of 30 for his significant contributions to financial innovation and early-stage investment strategies.

US Federal Reserve cuts its benchmark interest rate

US Federal Reserve has cut its benchmark interest rate by 0.25 percentage points, bringing the federal funds rate to its lowest level since early 2022. The new target range now stands at 3.5 to 3.75 percent, down from 3.75 to 4 percent.

RBI completes bond buys, takes FY26 total to a record high of ₹3.16 trn

The RBI has completed the first of two open-market bond purchases for December, taking its debt buys this financial year to a record ₹3.16 trillion. The central bank bought ₹50000 crore (\$5.53 billion) of bonds at higher-than-expected cutoff prices, lifting secondary-market yields.

JPMorgan to open first new branch in India

JPMorgan Chase & Co. is set to open a new branch in India after nearly a decade. It has gotten an in-principle approval from the RBI to establish its fourth branch in Pune, a city near Mumbai.

IndusInd Bank's Sunil Mehta to step down in January

IndusInd Bank Chairman Sunil Mehta will step down after his term concludes in January, 2026. The bank reported its largest-ever quarterly loss in the three months ended March 31, following a \$230 million hit to its accounts, amid governance and accounting failures.

Postal Staff to Be Trained as Mutual Fund Distributors Under India Post-BSE Tie-Up

The Ministry of Communications and the Bombay Stock Exchange have signed an MoU to train and certify select postal employees as mutual fund distributors.

Retail Inflation Inches Up to 0.71% in November

India's retail inflation rose to 0.71 per cent in November, up from a historic low of 0.25 per cent in October, according to official data.

CBDT Encourages Voluntary Compliance Through NUDGE Campaign

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has urged taxpayers to update their Income Tax Returns and withdraw any incorrect claims under the NUDGE Campaign. As part of the initiative, SMS and email advisories are being sent to identified taxpayers.

Banks advised to link MSME loans to external benchmark by RBI

The RBI has directed banks to link MSME loans to an external benchmark with a three-month reset clause to improve monetary policy transmission. Existing borrowers can switch to this regime under mutually agreed terms.

RBI Issues Final Guidelines On Transaction Accounts

The RBI has released the final set of guidelines governing transaction accounts across banks and regulated entities. One of the most significant changes is the removal of restrictions on cash credit accounts.

India's Banking Sector Hits 20-Year NPA Low

India's banking sector has entered its most stable phase in two decades, with non-performing assets (NPAs) falling sharply and profitability reaching record levels. Gross NPAs dropped to 2.31% by March 2025, the lowest in 20 years, compared with a peak of 11.46% in 2018.

Exports up 19.37% to \$38.13 billion in November

India's exports jumped by 19.37% to \$38.13 billion in November, while imports dipped by 1.88% to \$62.66 billion.

HDFC Bank gets approval to acquire up to 9.5% stake in IndusInd Bank

HDFC Bank has received approval from RBI to allow its group entities to hold up to 9.50% stake in IndusInd Bank. The approval was granted through a letter dated December 15, and will remain valid for one year, until December 14, 2026.

Unemployment rate falls to 4.7% in November

According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report, the unemployment rate (UR) among people aged 15 years and above declined to 4.7% in November, the lowest level since April, when it stood at 5.1%.

SBI appoints Ravi Ranjan as managing director

State Bank of India has appointed Ravi Ranjan as its new managing director, effective December 15, 2025. Ranjan, previously a deputy managing director, will serve until his superannuation on September 30, 2028.

Sagarmala Finance Corporation to start lending soon: MD
India's first maritime sector-specific Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), the Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL), has started talks with coastal states and their maritime boards to start lending operations.

Centre to sell up to 3% stake in Indian Overseas Bank
The Centre plans to initiate an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 3 per cent equity in state-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB). Under the plan, the government will sell a base tranche of 2 per cent, or about 385.1 million shares.

Centre reappoints Ashwini Kumar Tewari as SBI MD for two years

State Bank of India has stated that the Centre has approved the extension of tenure of its Managing Director Ashwini Kumar Tewari till December 31, 2027.

B. Sairam takes over as new chief of Coal India

Coal India has appointed B. Sairam as their new Chairman and Managing Director effective from December 15, 2025. He would be succeeding Sanoj Kumar Jha.

Rupee breaches 91 level, turns weakest Asian currency in 2025

The Indian rupee on December 16 had breached one more psychological mark by depreciating beyond 91 to 91.14 on the spot market against the U.S. dollar during intraday trade, making it one of the weakest major currencies globally this year and the weakest in Asia in 2025.

SBI to sign €150-million credit line with Germany's KfW for green energy projects

State Bank of India will sign a €150-million line of credit with KfW, the German development bank, for financing climate-friendly energy generation projects.

Deepinder Goyal tops Hurun India's 2025 self-made entrepreneurs list

At a valuation of ₹3.2 lakh crore, Deepinder Goyal of Eternal (formerly Zomato Ltd) has topped the list of self-made entrepreneur in the IDFC FIRST Private & Hurun India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2025.

IDFC FIRST Bank launches zero-fee USD, EUR global savings account for NRIs

IDFC FIRST Bank has launched the IDFC FIRST Global Savings Account in USD and EUR, an exclusive foreign-currency savings solution offered through GIFT City, Gujarat for Non Resident Indians.

RBI imposes curbs at Gauhati Co-operative Urban Bank

RBI has barred The Gauhati Co-operative Urban Bank from issuing new loans and suspended deposit withdrawals of more than 35,000 rupees (\$387.31) for six months, citing supervisory concerns and liquidity issues with the lender.

Centre unveils new logo for Regional Rural Banks

The Centre has unveiled a new logo for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The logo symbolises progress, nurture and enlightenment, reflecting the core values of RRBs in serving rural India.

Coal production reached nearly one billion tonnes in 2024-25

India's coal production has reached nearly one billion tonnes in 2024-25 for the first time. The Minister said India is now the world's second-largest producer and consumer of coal.

Airtel Payments Bank partners with NPCI Bharat BillPay

Airtel Payments Bank, in partnership with NPCI Bharat BillPay, has enabled electric vehicle (EV) wallet recharges through the Bharat Connect (BBPS) platform on the Airtel Thanks app.

Over ₹7,000 Crore saved through Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System

The Central government has said that more than seven thousand crore rupees have been saved in more than 23 lakh complaints so far through the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System.

BoB underwrites \$500 million forex loan facility to ONGC unit
Bank of Baroda (Bank), acting as the sole mandated lead arranger, has underwritten a \$500 million 5-year foreign currency term loan facility to OVL Overseas IFSC Ltd (OOIL), a GIFT City registered wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC Videsh Ltd(OVL).

India signs FTA with Oman

India and Oman signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) under which Oman will provide India duty-free access to 98.08% of its tariff lines, which covers 99.38% of what India exports to Oman.

ByteDance to sell over 80% of US TikTok assets to American and global investors

TikTok's Chinese owner, ByteDance, has signed agreements with three major investors to sell just over 80 percent of the company's US assets to American and global investors, including Oracle, Silver Lake and MGX.

Shashwat Sharma to take over as Airtel CEO

Bharti Airtel Ltd. Chief Executive Officer-designate Shashwat Sharma, who is currently the firm's chief operating officer, will take over the firm's reins as CEO on January 1, 2026, the telco announced.

MCA orders SFIO probe into IndusInd Bank

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has ordered an investigation by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) into the affairs of IndusInd Bank Ltd, citing public interest and serious accounting discrepancies flagged by statutory auditors and forensic reports.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman Introduces Securities Markets Code Bill 2025 in Lok Sabha

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced the Securities Markets Code Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the securities markets.

RBI clears Paytm arm PPSL as payment aggregator for offline, cross-border transactions

Paytm Payments Services Limited (PPSL) has received authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Payment Aggregator for physical (offline) payments and cross-border transactions.

World's 10 richest families of 2025

Walmart Inc.'s founding family, the Waltons, leads the list of the world's 25 richest families of 2025 again with a net worth exceeding half a trillion dollars, as per the latest Bloomberg report. The Ambani family, with an estimated net worth of \$105.6 billion, is the only Indian family to make Bloomberg's 2025 list of the 25 richest families in the world, ranking 8th.

Forex reserves jump \$1.68 bn to \$688.94 billion

India's forex reserves jumped by \$1.689 billion to \$688.949 billion during the week ended December 12, the RBI said. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves increased by \$1.033 billion to \$687.26 billion.

Starbucks taps Amazon's Anand Varadarajan as CTO

Starbucks has appointed Anand Varadarajan as its new chief technology officer, effective from January 19, 2025. Varadarajan will fill the role after Deb Hall Lefevre stepped down in September.

RBI Board Clears Risk-Based Deposit Insurance Model for Banks

The Central Board of Directors of the RBI has approved a risk-based deposit insurance framework for banks at its 620th meeting held in Hyderabad. The decision follows RBI's October proposal to introduce risk-linked premiums.

Electronics Exports Surge to \$31 Billion in FY26's First Eight Months

Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said India's electronics exports touched 31 billion dollars in the first eight months of the current financial year.

IIFL Finance appoints B. P. Kanungo as non-executive chairman of the board

NBFC firm IIFL Finance has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor B. P. Kanungo as non-executive chairman of the board.

FTA between India and New Zealand expected to double bilateral trade in next five years

India and New Zealand have successfully concluded the historic, ambitious and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The FTA enhances market access and tariff preferences for Indian exports to New Zealand.

New Zealand has committed to facilitating investments of 20 billion US dollars into India over the next fifteen years. India- New Zealand FTA eliminates duty on 100% of Indian Exports.

MUFG seals ₹39,600 crore Shriram Finance deal
The MUFG Bank, Japan's largest lender, would subscribe to a preferential equity allotment for a 20% stock ownership in Shriram Finance with a financial commitment of ₹39,620 crore.

RBI slaps Rs 62 lakh fine on Kotak Mahindra Bank
The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 61.95 lakh on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of norms related to basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account, business correspondents, and credit information companies.

Combined Index of Eight Core Industries increases by 1.8 % in November
The combined Index of Eight Core Industries increased by 1.8 per cent in November this year as compared to the same month last year.

Combined AUM of NPS crossed ₹16 lakh cr. in October: PFRDA

National Pension System (NPS) subscriber base has grown significantly, surpassing 90 million by October 2025 while its combined Assets Under Management (AUM) along with Atal Pension Yojana (APY) crossed ₹16 lakh crore.

IOL to manufacture two high-precision, combat-proven systems in India

India Optel Limited (IOL), a Mini Navratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking, signed an agreement with a French company to manufacture two high-precision, combat-proven systems in India. The agreement, signed with Safran Electronics and Defense.

Nvidia-Intel deal cleared by U.S. antitrust agencies
U.S. antitrust agencies have cleared Nvidia's investment in Intel. Nvidia said in September it would invest \$5 billion in Intel, throwing its heft behind the struggling U.S. chipmaker.

RBI to Infuse 3 Trillion Rupees Through OMO and Forex Swap

The Reserve Bank of India has announced a fresh set of measures to ease tight liquidity conditions in the banking system. It has unveiled a plan to inject nearly 3 trillion rupees over the coming weeks through a combination of open market operations (OMOs) and a foreign exchange swap.

Paytm to set up overseas subsidiaries

Paytm Cloud Technologies (PCTL) has approved the incorporation of two overseas wholly owned subsidiaries in Indonesia and Luxembourg, as part of its international expansion plans.

Income Tax Department launches data-driven NUDGE Campaign

The Income Tax department has launched a data-driven NUDGE campaign for Assessment Year 2025-26, encouraging taxpayers to voluntarily review deduction and exemption claims identified as potentially ineligible through risk analytics.

Unity Small Finance Bank wins auction for Aviom India Housing Finance

Unity Small Finance Bank has emerged as the winning bidder for bankrupt Aviom India Housing Finance, offering ₹977.5 crore as upfront payment.

Cyber Fraud losses worth 660 crore rupees prevented in 6 months

The Central government has prevented six hundred sixty Crore Cyber Fraud Losses in just 6 months with the help of the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI). More than 1000 banks, third-party application providers and Payment System Operators have onboarded the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) & started adopting FRI actively.

CCI okays Blackstone's proposal to acquire 9.99 pc stake in Federal Bank

Competition Commission of India, CCI has cleared US-based Blackstone's proposal to acquire 9.99% stake through warrants in private sector lender Federal Bank.

Canara Bank launches 'Canara ai1Pe'

Canara Bank has launched 'Canara ai1Pe', a new unified payments interface (UPI) application aimed at offering customers a faster, safer and more convenient digital payments experience.

HDFC Bank spends Rs 1,068 crore in CSR in FY25
HDFC Bank spent Rs 1,068.03 crore on its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives through Parivartan in 2024-25, an increase of Rs 123 crore over the previous fiscal year.

IRFC to Refinance World Bank's ₹10,000 Crore Loan for Freight Corridor

The Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) signed an agreement to refinance ₹10,000 crore of foreign-currency loans taken from the World Bank.

The loans were used for the ₹51,000-crore, 1,337-km Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor, stretching from Punjab to Bihar.

SEBI Raises Threshold for Simplified Duplicate Securities Process

SEBI has doubled the monetary limit for simplified issuance of duplicate securities from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh to ease investor compliance. It also relaxed Basic Services Demat Account – BSDA framework norms.

Bharti Enterprises, Warburg Pincus to pick up 49% stake in Haier India

Bharti Enterprises and the local arm of private equity major Warburg Pincus have announced to collectively own a 49% stake in Haier India, a subsidiary of the Haier Group, headquartered in Qingdao, Shandong, China.

Bank of India raises ₹10,000 crore via infra bonds

Bank of India (BoI) had raised ₹10,000 crore through issue of Long Term Infrastructure bonds @ 7.23% per annum through NSE Electronic Bidding Provider Platform.

Net FDI negative for third straight month in October 2025

According to the RBI data, India's net foreign direct investment remained negative for the third consecutive month in October 2025, with outflows exceeding inflows by \$1.5 billion.

Ambuja Cement board approved amalgamation of ACC, Orient Cement with itself

Adani Group's Ambuja Cements Ltd's board has approved the amalgamation of ACC Ltd and Orient Cement Ltd with itself to create a single company that would compete with Aditya Birla's UltraTech Cement.

PSBs okay ₹28k cr in MSME loans

Public-sector banks (PSBs) have sanctioned ₹28,724 crore for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the government's new digital footprint-based credit assessment model during the April to October period of FY26, reflecting early traction of the new technology-driven lending framework.

India Approves AI Hind Air, FlyExpress

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has given initial regulatory clearance to two new carriers, AI Hind Air and FlyExpress, marking a fresh attempt to broaden competition in the country's fast-expanding aviation market.

Private banks lead small business lending

According to SIDBI, private banks continue to dominate enterprise lending to small businesses in India, closely followed by public sector banks (PSBs). As of Sep'25, private banks remain the primary lenders to enterprises, though their share shows minor volatility. Public sector banks follow closely, but their share declined from 39.3 per cent in Sep'23 to 37.8 per cent in Sep'25.

Small Business Credit Exposure Touches ₹46 Trillion, Grows 16%: CRIF-SIDBI

India's aggregate small business credit exposure rose 16.2% year-on-year to ₹46 trillion as of September 30, according to a report by CRIF and Small Industries Development Bank of India.

Gold and Forex Assets Lift India's Reserves by \$4.4 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$4.37 billion to \$693 billion in the week ended Dec. 19, driven by a rise in gold reserves and foreign currency assets.

FinMin asks banks, financial institutions to promptly report vigilance matters

The Finance Ministry has directed public sector banks and financial institutions, including insurance companies, to promptly report vigilance-related matters concerning whole-time directors of their respective companies.

PNB reports Rs 2,434 cr loan fraud

Punjab National Bank has reported a loan fraud of Rs 2,434 crore committed by former promoters of SREI Equipment Finance Ltd (SEFL) and SREI Infrastructure Finance Ltd (SIFL) to the RBI.

Gold and Silver prices surge to new heights in Indian Bullion Market

Silver prices soared 15 per cent to scale a fresh record high of 2,42,000 per kilogram (kg) in the futures market, before closing at 2,39,787 rupees per kg for the March contract. Gold futures on the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) for the February contract recorded its highest-ever close at 1,39,873 rupees per 10 grams, registering a weekly gain of 4.2 per cent.

IIP rises to 25-month high of 6.7 per cent in November

India's industrial production growth, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), surged to a 25-month high of 6.7% in November this year on an annual basis.

Centre clears Rs 79,000 crore defence proposals to enhance capabilities of Armed Forces

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has cleared proposals worth 79 thousand crore rupees to enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces. Chairing the Defence Acquisition Council meeting in New Delhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for these proposals of the three Services.

Australia to remove tariffs on 100% of Indian exports from January 1

Australia will provide duty-free access to all Indian exports from January 1, 2026 under the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) between the two countries.

RediffPay starts testing ahead of UPI launch

Rediff.com India received final approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for its Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) license, paving the way for the rollout of its digital payments platform, RediffPay.

Bandhan Bank sells over ₹6,800 crore stressed assets

Bandhan Bank has sold stressed assets worth over Rs 6,800 crore to two asset reconstruction companies, Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (ARCL) and Phoenix ARC — as part of efforts to reduce non-performing assets and sharpen focus on core lending.

India's banking sector attracts \$14-15 billion in 2025

India's banking sector became a global money magnet in 2025, attracting an estimated \$14-15 billion in foreign investment. Major deals by Mitsubishi UFJ and Emirates NBD signaled deep strategic engagement.

Irdai to crack down on mis-selling as Insurance Bill 2025 tightens norms

IRDAI is set to tighten the screws on mis-selling, with new legal amendments (Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025) empowering it to impose stricter rules on commission disclosure and conflicts of interest across the industry.

LIC ties up with Sahaj Insurance Services

LIC has announced a strategic collaboration with Sahaj Insurance Services Private Limited to strengthen insurance penetration across rural and semi urban parts of the country.

ATM numbers dip in FY25 as digital payments rise: RBI

The overall number of ATMs declined to 2,51,057 as of March 31, 2025, from 2,53,417 in the year-ago period, driven down further by private-sector banks' strategies. The number of bank branches increased by over 2% on the back of network expansion by the public sector banks.

India is now fourth largest economy

India has surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth largest economy with a size of \$4.18 trillion and is poised to overtake Germany to become the third largest by 2030.

FITT, IIT Delhi and IDFC FIRST Bank Launch Cohort under IGNITE Program

FITT, IIT Delhi, in collaboration with IDFC FIRST Bank, announced the launch of a new cohort under the IGNITE Program, designed to support high-potential startups working across climate tech, clean energy, healthcare, agri-tech, mobility, education, and AI-driven solutions for social good.

RBI releases its Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024-25

RBI released its Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024-25. Deposits and credit of SCBs both grew in double digits during the year. Asset quality continued to improve, with the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio declining to a multi-decadal low of 2.2 per cent in end-March 2025, and further to 2.1 per cent by end-September 2025.

Profitability of banks remained robust during the year, with return on assets (RoA) at 1.4 per cent and return on equity (RoE) at 13.5 per cent in FY25.

Nvidia takes \$5 billion stake in Intel

American semiconductor firm Nvidia has purchased Intel shares worth \$5 billion, carrying out a transaction announced in September.

Number of UCBs declines to 1,457 in FY25

The number of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) has steadily declined to 1,457 at the end of March 2025 from 1,926 during the same period in 2004.

Bank fraud amount rises 30% to in H1FY26

The amount involved in banking system frauds surged to ₹21,515 crore in the first half of FY26 (H1FY26), up 30 per cent from the same period last year, even as the number of frauds fell 2.8 times to 5,092.

SoftBank completes \$40 billion investment in OpenAI

SoftBank Group has completed its \$40 billion investment in OpenAI. The Japanese investment giant sent over a final \$22 billion to \$22.5 billion last week.

NBFC balance sheets expand in FY25 on loan growth

The total balance sheet of NBFCs expanded 18.9% to ₹61.09 lakh crore in March 2025, up from ₹51.39 lakh crore in March 2024, which further rose 7.2% in the current fiscal year to ₹65.51 lakh crore, as of September 2025.

RBI initiates review of scale-based regulation for NBFCs amid growing systemic role

RBI has initiated a review of its scale-based regulation (SBR) framework for non-bank lenders that are categorised by the regulator in the descending order of their systemic importance and asset ownership.

AWARDS

Winners at 2025 World Athletics Awards - Full list

- Women's World Athlete of the Year: Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA)
- Men's World Athlete of the Year: Mondo Duplantis (SWE)
- Women's Track: Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA)
- Men's Track: Emmanuel Wanyonyi (KEN)
- Women's Field: Nicola Olyslagers (AUS)
- Men's Field: Mondo Duplantis (SWE)
- Women's Out of Stadium: María Pérez (ESP)
- Men's Out of Stadium: Sebastian Sawe (KEN)
- Women's Rising Star: Zhang Jiale (CHN)
- Men's Rising Star: Edmund Serem (KEN)
- Fair Play Award: Tim Van de Velde (BEL)
- President's Award: Bruce McAvaney (Australian sports commentator)
- Woman of the Year: Ruth Jepchumba Bundotich (KEN)
- Coaching Achievement Award: Michael O'Connor (IRL)
- Photograph of the Year: Vegard Grott
- Member Federation Award: People's Republic of China

President confers National Awards for exemplary efforts in empowering Persons with Disabilities

On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024, President of India, Droupadi Murmu has conferred the National Awards to 33 exemplary individuals and institutions for Empowering Persons with Disabilities, in New Delhi.

UNEP's 2025 Champions of the Earth award recognizes five climate trailblazers

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has named five climate forerunners as its 2025 Champions of the Earth.

UNEP's 2025 Champions of the Earth are:

- Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change – Policy Leadership
- Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu
- Mariam Issoufou, Principal and Founder, Mariam Issoufou Architects, Niger/France
- Imaazon, Brazil
- Manfredi Caltagirone (posthumous) – Lifetime Achievement

María Corina Machado's daughter accepts Nobel Peace Prize on her behalf

Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado's daughter Ana Corina Sosa has accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on her behalf. Machado, winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, has been in hiding and hasn't been seen in public.

Trump awarded inaugural FIFA Peace Prize Award

US President Donald Trump was presented with the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize at the 2026 World Cup draw in Washington.

Prime Minister Modi conferred with Ethiopia's highest award

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Ethiopia's highest award, 'The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia', by his Ethiopian counterpart Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali.

Prime Minister Modi Receives Oman's Highest Civilian Honour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Order of Oman (First Class) by Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in recognition of his contribution to strengthening India-Oman ties and his leadership.

J&K Bank wins 'Best MSME Bank' award at MSME Banking Excellence Awards 2025

J&K Bank won the prestigious 'Best MSME Bank – Winner' award at the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Banking Excellence Awards 2025 in New Delhi. The bank also secured the runner-up position in the 'CSR Initiative & Business Responsibility' category.

Nnena Kalu Becomes First Person With a Learning Disability To Win the Turner Prize

Scottish artist Nnena Kalu has won the 2025 Turner Prize with two exhibitions, including a series of brightly coloured sculptures. The Turner Prize is one of the most prestigious art awards in the world, recognizing recent developments in British art across all mediums.

Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir Awarded Saudi Arabia's Highest Civilian Honour

Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, has been awarded Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour, the King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellence, during an official visit to the Kingdom.

President Droupadi Murmu confers Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025

President Droupadi Murmu has conferred the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 in New Delhi. The awards were given under four categories, including Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shree, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and Vigyan Team.

Padma Vibhushan Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar has been honoured with the Vigyan Ratna award posthumously.

President Murmu confers 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar'

President Droupadi Murmu has conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas in New Delhi. This year, 20 children from 18 States and Union Territories have been awarded for demonstrating outstanding achievements.

APL Wins 'Emerging Professional Sports Event of the Year' at India Sports Awards 2025

The Archery Premier League (APL) has been awarded the prestigious Emerging Professional Sports Event of the Year' at the India Sports Awards 2025, held during FICCI TURF 2025 15th Global Sports Summit at the FICCI Federation House, New Delhi.

C-DOT wins IEEE SA Corporate Award 2025

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has become the first organisation from India to receive Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standards Association (IEEE SA) Corporate Award 2025 and only the fifth globally from the 140-year-old IEEE.

PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

Ales Bialiatski

Belarusian authorities have released Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski and key opposition figure Maria Kolesnikova from prison. Their release comes amid President Alexander Lukashenko's seeks to improve relations with Washington.

Elon Musk

Elon Musk has created history and became the first person in the world to hit \$600 billion net worth. Musk's net worth shot up by \$168 billion in a day on the heels of news that his rocket startup SpaceX was likely to go public at a valuation of \$800 billion.

Barham Salih

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has elected Barham Salih, the former president of Iraq, as the next UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Salih, who will begin a five-year term on January 1, 2026, becomes the first official from the Middle East to lead the UNHCR in at least three-quarters of a century.

José Antonio Kast

Chile has elected the far-right wing José Antonio Kast to be its next President, after an election campaign that was dominated by themes of security, immigration and crime.

Andrej Babis

Czech President Petr Pavel has appointed billionaire leader of the populist ANO party Andrej Babis as the new Prime Minister in a ceremony. His ANO movement, which won October parliamentary elections.

Slovak-born, Babis is the seventh wealthiest Czech according to Forbes magazine.

Praveen Kumar

The Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Praveen Kumar, took on additional charge of the Border Security Force (BSF) Director General on November 30 following the retirement of the incumbent Daljit Singh Chawdhary.

Vivek Chaturvedi

The appointment committee of the cabinet has approved the appointment of Vivek Chaturvedi, a 1990 batch officer of Indian revenue services (C&IT) as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).

Arun Kumar Singh

Arun Kumar Singh has been granted a one-year extension as chairman of ONGC. He will continue as the chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) till December 6, 2026.

Gen. Mamdi Doumbouya

Junta leader Gen. Mamdi Doumbouya was declared the winner of Guinea's election. Mr. Doumbouya has won 86.72% of the votes counted so far, according to the General Directorate of Elections.

Asim Munir

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has approved Asim Munir for the newly created position of Chief of Defence Forces (CDF). This move, which grants Munir command over all three services for five years.

Raj Kumar Goyal

Former IAS officer Raj Kumar Goyal was sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) by President Droupadi Murmu. Goyal is a retired IAS officer of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre of the 1990 batch.

Sai Jadhav

Sai Jadhav has created history by becoming the first woman officer to pass out from the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun. Sai has been commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Territorial Army, becoming the first woman officer from the IMA to join the force.

Peter Arnett

Peter Arnett, the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who spent decades dodging bullets and bombs to bring the world eyewitness accounts of war from the rice paddies of Vietnam to the deserts of Iraq, has died. He was 91.

Ram Sutar

Noted sculptor Ram Sutar, known for designing the world's tallest statue — Statue of Unity in Gujarat, passed away. The iconic statues of Mahatma Gandhi seated in a meditating pose and of Chhatrapati Shivaji riding a horse on the Parliament premises rank among his finest creations.

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Renowned litterateur and Jnanpith Award awardee Vinod Kumar Shukla passed away in Raipur. He was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel "Deewar Mein Ek Khidki."

Venkaiah Naidu

Former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has been elected President of the Atal Smriti Nyas in New Delhi. His name was proposed by founding member Ram Bahadur Rai after consultations with members, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Tarique Rahman

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman returned to Bangladesh, ending nearly 17 years in exile in the United Kingdom. Tarique Rahman had left Bangladesh in 2008 for medical treatment and remained in London during the years of political turmoil.

Najib Razak

Jailed former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was convicted by the Kuala Lumpur High Court on the charges of abuse of power and money laundering in the multibillion-dollar 1 Malaysia Development Berhad scandal.

PV Sindhu

Two-time Olympic medallist and former world champion PV Sindhu was elected Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission for the 2026-2029 term.

Brigitte Bardot

French film legend Brigitte Bardot, a cinema icon of the 1950s and sixties who walked away from global stardom to become an animal rights protector, has died aged 91.

Khaleda Zia

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia passed away. Khaleda Zia, a two-time prime minister, was one of the most prominent figures in Bangladesh's politics for decades and served as BNP chairperson for many years.

Swaraj Kaushal

Former Mizoram Governor and eminent lawyer Swaraj Kaushal, husband of former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, passed away. He was designated as a senior advocate in the Supreme Court at just 34 and became the youngest person to become Governor when he was appointed the Governor of Mizoram in 1990.

Frank Gehry

Frank Gehry, the groundbreaking architect whose daring, sculptural designs reshaped skylines around the world, has died. Gehry best known for iconic works such as the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, and the DZ Bank.

Simone Tata

Simone Tata, the business leader who transformed Lakme into one of India's most recognisable beauty brands, died at 95. Simone Tata was the mother of Noel Tata and the stepmother of former Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata.

Nicola Pietrangeli

Nicola Pietrangeli, a two-time winner of the French Open, has died. Nicola Pietrangeli was widely considered the country's greatest ever tennis player until the emergence of current world number two Jannik Sinner.

Prafulla Govinda Baruah

Prafulla Govinda Baruah, a Padma Shri awardee and a towering figure in Northeast India's media landscape, passed away, marking the end of an era for regional journalism.

Shivraj Patil

Senior Congress leader and former Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil passed away in Latur. He was 91. Shivraj Patil held several important positions during his long political career, including Speaker of the Lok Sabha and various key portfolios in the Union Cabinet.

SPORTS

India Finish Runner-Up at Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

The Indian men's hockey team has finished as the runner-up at the prestigious Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia. The Indian team went down 0-1 to Belgium in the title clash.

DP World Signs Abhishek Sharma

DP World, a leading provider of global smart logistics solutions, has signed Indian batting sensation Abhishek Sharma as a new brand ambassador.

Syed Modi International 2025: Treesa-Gayatri retain women's doubles title

India's Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand has successfully defended their women's doubles title at the Syed Modi International 2025 badminton tournament. Kidambi Srikanth lost out to the young Jason Gunawan in a tense men's singles final.

Table Tennis World Youth Championships: Divyanshi wins bronze in U-15 category

Indian paddler Divyanshi Bhowmick became only the second Indian to secure a singles medal in the Under-15 girls category at the ITTF World Youth Championships at the BT Arena Cluj Napoca, Romania.

Max Verstappen wins Qatar Grand Prix 2025

Red Bull's Max Verstappen has won the Qatar Grand Prix 2025 to set up a final race title showdown with McLaren duo Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri.

Arjun Erigaisi Wins Jerusalem Masters 2025

Indian GM Arjun Erigaisi has claimed the Jerusalem Masters 2025 title after defeating former world champion Viswanathan Anand in an all-Indian final.

ISSF World Cup Final: Suruchi Singh Wins Gold

India began the ISSF World Cup Final in Doha on a high as Suruchi Singh claims gold in the women's 10m air pistol event, scoring 245.1 to set a new junior world record and surpass Manu Bhaker's previous mark. Compatriot Sainyam secured silver.

India wins ODI Series 2-1 over South Africa

India sealed the three-match ODI series 2-1 with a commanding nine-wicket victory over South Africa in Visakhapatnam.

Lando Norris Wins First Formula One World Title

Lando Norris finished third in the season-ending Abu Dhabi GP 2025 and thus won the Formula World Drivers' Championship for the first time in his career, ending Red Bull's Max Verstappen's hold on the title.

India hosts Squash World Cup in Chennai

India hosted the Squash World Cup for the third consecutive time, with the tournament held at SDAT Stadium in Chennai from December 9 to till the 14th of this month.

Simranpreet Kaur Wins Gold in Women's 25m Pistol

Simranpreet Kaur Brar has won the gold medal in the women's 25-meter pistol event at the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha, Qatar.

Germany wins Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025
In the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup final, Germany won their eighth title, defeating Spain 3-2 in a shoot-out in Chennai.

2025 Junior Men's Hockey World Cup: India wins bronze
The Indian hockey team won their first bronze medal at the 2025 FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup in Chennai. India recorded a sensational 4-2 comeback win against Argentina, scoring four goals in eleven minutes to secure third place in the tournament.

33rd Southeast Asian Games held in Thailand
The 33rd Southeast Asian Games SEA 2025 was hosted across Bangkok, Chonburi, and Songkhla, featuring over 13,000 athletes from 11 nations competing in 50 sports.

Ashalata Devi nominated for AFC Women's Asian Cup all-time Dream XI

Star Indian Football player Ashalata Devi has been nominated for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup all-time Dream XI. She has been nominated in the category of defenders.

Jammu & Kashmir Hosts First International Dangal and Rustam Title 2025

Jammu & Kashmir hosted its first-ever International Dangal and Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025 at the iconic Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu, in December 2025. The championship will bring together professional wrestlers from India, Iran, and several other countries.

India Wins Squash World Cup 2025

India defeated the top-seeded Hong Kong to win the Squash World Cup 2025 for the first time. India crushed Hong Kong 3- NIL in the summit clash in Chennai.

Odisha Masters: Unnati, Kiran clinch singles titles

Top shuttlers Unnati Hooda and Kiran George have won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, in the Odisha Masters Super 100 tournament in Cuttack.

Maharashtra CM launches state-level sports initiative Project Mahadeva

The Government of Maharashtra has inaugurated the state-level sports initiative 'Project Mahadeva' to identify football talent under 13 years of age and to develop high-quality football players in the state.

Tennis Premier League: GS Delhi Aces wins maiden title

The seventh season of the Tennis Premier League (TPL) ended in a high-stakes grand finale, where GS Delhi Aces emerged victorious to win its maiden title at the Gujarat University Tennis Stadium.

FanCode signs multi-year contract extension for F1 broadcast rights in India

Formula 1 & FanCode, has announced an extension of their partnership that will see the streaming platform in India continue to exclusively broadcast the sport until 2028.

Lionel Messi wraps up his three-day India GOAT tour

Argentina footballer Lionel Messi has recently concluded his first-ever GOAT ("Greatest of All Time") Tour in India. During his visit, the football legend made appearances in four major cities, including Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai and New Delhi.

Football: PSG Wins Intercontinental Cup

Paris St-Germain beat Brazilian side Flamengo on penalties to win the Intercontinental Cup final and secure a sixth trophy of the year, with Matvey Safonov saving four spot-kicks in a row during the shootout.

India worst doping offender for third straight year

India tops the rankings of global sports drug cheats for a third straight year, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said, marking a dubious hat-trick for the country.

Jharkhand wins their first-ever SMAT title

Jharkhand has won their first-ever Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) title at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, defeating Haryana by 69 runs.

India Win T20I Series 3-1

India defeated South Africa by 30 runs in the fifth and final T20 International to claim the series 3-1 in Ahmedabad. Put into bat, India posted 231 for the loss of five wickets in 20 overs.

Indian Men's Doubles Pair Clinch Bronze at BWF World Tour Finals 2025

India's men's doubles duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty secured a bronze medal at the BWF World Tour Finals 2025 in Hangzhou, China.

Pakistan's under-19 cricket team wins the Asia Cup.
Pakistan's under-19 cricket team has won the Asia Cup, defeating India by 191 runs in the final in Dubai on 21st December.

Badminton: An Se-young wins BWF World Tour Finals
An Se-young became the first badminton player to earn over USD 1 million in prize money in a season when she beat Wang Zhi Yi to claim the BWF World Tour Finals 2025. With her 11th title in 2025, An equalled Japan men's great Kento Momota's record of most titles in a calendar year in singles competition

Badminton: Frenchman Popov makes history at World Tour Finals
France's Christo Popov has defeated reigning champion Shi Yu Qi of China, 21-19, 21-9 to win the men's title at the World Tour Finals.

R Praggnanandhaa and Anish Giri won the Global Chess League 2025 Title

Indian Grandmasters R Praggnanandhaa and Anish Giri's Alpine SG Pipers won the Global Chess League 2025 Season 3 title, beating defending Champions Triveni Continental Kings in the finals in Mumbai. Alpine SG Pipers defeated Triveni Continental Kings in the final.

England Ends 15-Year Drought with Historic Win in 4th Ashes Test

England scripted a memorable victory by defeating Australia by four wickets in the fourth Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, ending a nearly 15-year winless run on Australian soil.

Deepthi Sharma Scripts History with Record-Breaking Feat in International Cricket

Deepthi Sharma shattered multiple records during the third T20I against Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram. Deepthi also became the first Indian (men or women) to claim 150 T20I wickets,

World Rapid Championship 2025: Magnus & Aleksandra Goryachkina wins titles

Magnus Carlsen and Aleksandra Goryachkina have emerged as the winners at the World Rapid Chess Championship 2025 held at Doha, UAE. .

For India, Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy won bronze in the open and women's sections, respectively.

Tennis: Kyrgios beats Sabalenka in 'Battle of the Sexes' showdown

Australia's Nick Kyrgios has beaten Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 6-3 in a "Battle of the Sexes" exhibition match held 50 years after the 1973 clash between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs.

World Blitz Championships 2025: Magnus Carlsen wins

Magnus Carlsen has won a record-extending ninth world Blitz title to the Rapid gold medal he won two days back in the World Blitz Championship 2025.

Blitz Chess Championship: Arjun Erigaisi wins Bronze medal

India's Arjun Erigaisi has suffered a shattering semifinal loss to top Uzbek player Nodirbek Abdusattorov at the World Blitz Championship in Doha. Erigaisi had settled for a bronze medal.

Max Verstappen earns fifth straight 'Driver of the Year' nod

Max Verstappen was voted the Formula 1 Driver of the Year by his colleagues for the fifth straight year despite falling short of his fifth consecutive world championship.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tokyo Loses Title Of World's Most Populous City, UN DESA report titled "World Urbanization Prospects 2025" has awarded the title of the world's most populous city to Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. Overtaking the Japanese capital, Tokyo, for the first time.

Russia plans a nuclear power plant on the moon

Russia plans to put a nuclear power plant on the moon in the next decade. Russia's state space corporation, Roscosmos, said that it planned to build a lunar power plant by 2036.

Sheikh Khalifa Medical City becomes first hospital globally to administer ITVISMA for spinal muscular atrophy

Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Khalifa Medical City has become the first hospital globally to administer ITVISMA, a one-time gene therapy for spinal muscular atrophy, marking a milestone in precision medicine. UAE is the second in the world after the United States to authorise the therapy.

India Takes Over Chairship of International IDEA

India has assumed the Chairship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for the first time, with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Indian scientists discover 12-billion-year-old Alknanda, similar to Milky Way galaxy

Astronomers Rashi Jain and Yogesh Wadadekar at the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA-TIFR) Pune, have found a massive, well-formed spiral galaxy that existed around 12 billion years ago, when the universe was only 1.5 billion years old. The galaxy, named Alknanda (after a river in the Himalayas),

The Architects of AI Are TIME's 2025 Person of the Year

Time magazine has named the "Architects of AI" as its Person of the Year 2025, highlighting the US tech titans whose work on cutting-edge artificial intelligence is transforming humanity.

The World Inequality Report 2026 highlights

According to the latest World Inequality Report 2026, income inequality in India remains among the highest in the world, with top 10 per cent of earners capturing 58 per cent of national income, while bottom 50 per cent receive only 15 per cent.

India at World Skills Asia Competition 2025, Secures 8th Rank in first-ever participation

India secured 8th rank in its first-ever participation at the World Skills Asia Competition 2025 held in Taipei, Taiwan, competing against 29 nations.

India ranks third in Stanford University's 2025 Global AI Vibrancy tool

India has risen to third place in Stanford University's 2025 Global AI Vibrancy rankings, marking a leap in its artificial intelligence capabilities across research, talent, and infrastructure. The US leads the ranking, followed by China.

India Re-elected to ICAO

India has been re-elected to the International Civil Aviation Organisation – ICAO Council with one of the highest mandates. India has been re-elected to the Part II of the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the 2025–2028 term.

China Tests World's First AI-Planned High-Speed Rail Tunnel in Wufeng

China has begun testing the world's first high-speed railway tunnel planned using artificial intelligence in Wufeng, Hubei province. The Yangcun Tunnel, part of a 350 kmph rail line, uses AI to determine most construction methods solving challenges posed by the region's steep mountains, unstable geology and deep valleys.

World AIDS Day observed on Dec. 1

World AIDS Day is a global observance held on December 1 every year to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The theme for 2025 is 'Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response'.

BSF Raising Day observed every year on December 1

BSF Raising Day is observed every year on December 1 to mark the establishment of the force in 1965. This year is the 61st Raising Day.

UAE marks 54th National Day

The United Arab Emirates celebrated its 54th National Day on December 2. Eid Al Etihad marks the historic unification of the emirates in 1971 under the theme "Spirit of the Union."

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 observed on Dec. 3

The International Day of Persons with disabilities is observed on 3 December every year. In 2025, WHO focuses on how inclusive financing can make a real difference to the lives, health and well-being of persons with disabilities, their families and society at large.

India celebrates Navy Day on Dec.4

Navy Day is being celebrated on the 4th of December every year to recognise the achievements and role of the Indian Navy. It was on this day in 1971, during Operation Trident, that the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels, including PNS Khaibar.

World Wildlife Conservation Day celebrated on December 4th

The World Wildlife Conservation Day is celebrated annually on December 4th to raise awareness about protecting endangered species and their habitats. The WWD2025 Theme is Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet.

International Day Of Banks 2025

The International Day of Banks is observed on December 4 every year to recognise the important role the institution plays in supporting economic growth and stability around the world.

Nation pays homage to Dr. BR Ambedkar on his 70th Mahaparinirvan Diwas

India paid homage to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 70th Mahaparinirvan Diwas or death anniversary on December 6. The Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed every year by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

International Civil Aviation Day:7th December

International Civil Aviation Day 2025 was observed on December 7 to highlight the crucial role of civil aviation in global connectivity, economic progress and international cooperation. This year's theme is "Safe Skies. Sustainable Future: Together for All."

Armed Forces Flag Day: 7th December

Armed Forces Flag Day, observed every year on 7 December, pays tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force, including veterans, war widows and dependents.

Human Rights Day:10th December

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10th December to mark the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The 2025 theme, "Our Everyday Essentials,"

Vijay Diwas Marks India's Victory in 1971 War

India is celebrating Vijay Diwas on December 16 to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.

International Migrants Day 2025 observed on Dec. 18

International Migrants Day is observed every year on 18 December to raise awareness about the rights, safety and dignity of migrants and refugees across the world. This year's theme, "My Great Story: Cultures and Development,"

World Meditation Day:21st December

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21st of December as the 'World Meditation Day'. The date was chosen to coincide with the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, which symbolizes introspection and inner calm.

National Mathematics Day on Dec.22

December 22 is designated as National Mathematics Day in recognition of Ramanujan's extraordinary contributions to the discipline. National Mathematics Day will be observed on the day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, one of India's most influential and globally recognised mathematicians.

National Farmers' Day 2025 on Dec.23

National Farmers' Day is being observed across the nation on December 23. The day honours the contributions of farmers to the nation's growth and development. This day marks the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh .

Good Governance Day:25th December

Good Governance Day 2025 is observed on December 25 to commemorate the 101st birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Instituted in 2014, the day underscores India's commitment to transparent, accountable, and citizen-centric governance.

Nation Remembers Shaheed Udham Singh on His 126th Birth Anniversary

The nation is remembering Shaheed Udham Singh on his 126th Birth Anniversary on December 26. He avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by assassinating Michael O'Dwyer, the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab.

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness: 27th December

Observed on 27 December, the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness highlights the need for strong health systems and global cooperation to prevent and respond to epidemics.