

## International

### ICG ship Sarthak strengthens India's maritime outreach with Kuwait port call.

ICG Ship Sarthak, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel, has begun its overseas deployment to Gulf nations with its first port call at Suwaikh, Kuwait.

The visit marks a boost to India-Kuwait maritime ties and aligns with the SAGAR vision to promote security and growth in the region.

During the four-day stay, the crew will engage with the Kuwait Coast Guard before continuing to Iran and Saudi Arabia.

### Abu Dhabi hosts Global AI show 2025 to shape Intelligent Futures.

Abu Dhabi is hosting the Global AI Show 2025 under the theme "AI: 2031 – Accelerating Intelligent Futures", bringing together global tech leaders, researchers and policymakers.

The event highlights West Asia's growing role in digital transformation, focusing on ethical and scalable AI, strong investment climate, and talent-friendly policies.

Experts predict rapid innovation in the coming years as AI reshapes industries such as finance, healthcare, defence, climate tech and the future of work.

### Surya Kiran-19 strengthens India-Nepal military coordination in counter-terror ops.

The Indian and Nepalese 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.

The drills featured modern technologies such as ISR and precision-targeting drones, AI-enabled surveillance and advanced weapon sights.

A symbolic "Tree of Friendship" was planted by both DGMOs to reaffirm long-standing defence cooperation and strategic ties.

### India and Brunei strengthen defence ties for peace in Indo-Pacific.

India and Brunei reaffirmed their commitment to peace, stability and a rules-based Indo-Pacific during the inaugural Joint Working Group meeting in New Delhi.

Both nations agreed on a roadmap to boost defence cooperation, including military exchanges, joint training, maritime security, HADR, capacity building and defence technology collaboration.

The Terms of Reference for the JWG were signed, marking a key milestone in the growing bilateral security partnership.

### Bitcoin MENA 2025 wraps up in Abu Dhabi, spotlighting digital finance transformation.

Bitcoin MENA 2025 concluded in Abu Dhabi after two days of sessions on Bitcoin adoption, mining, regulations and institutional investment, drawing over 12,000 participants from 100+ countries.

With high crypto ownership, clear regulatory frameworks and zero tax on personal crypto gains, the UAE is rapidly emerging as a global digital asset leader.

The planned launch of the national digital dirham in late 2025 further strengthens Abu Dhabi's role in the region's crypto ecosystem.

### 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.

The breakthrough integrates heavy machinery, explosives and advanced software to build transport infrastructure in one of China's most difficult terrains.

## Important Days

### Human Rights Day:10<sup>th</sup> December.

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10<sup>th</sup> 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," stresses that human rights are not abstract ideals but protections we depend on daily in our homes, workplaces, communities and public life.

## National

### Jal Shakti Hackathon-2025 launched to drive water innovation and public participation.

Union Minister C. R. Patil launched the Jal Shakti Hackathon-2025 and the Bharat-WIN Portal in New Delhi to promote technology-driven solutions for India's water sector.

The initiative aims to mobilize national talent for a secure and inclusive water future, encouraging practical and scalable innovations for grassroots challenges.

The portal widens research participation beyond select institutions, ensuring contributions from diverse stakeholders across the country.

### Global AI conclave in Chennai to advance safe and inclusive AI development.

IIT Madras and the India AI Mission will host a global AI conclave in Chennai to drive India's vision for trusted, safe and inclusive artificial intelligence.

Ahead of the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, the event will focus on practical AI safety and governance frameworks that are globally interoperable and locally scalable. Experts from government, industry and academia will work toward creating an AI Safety Commons for the Global South through shared datasets, benchmarks and policy models.

### President Murmu honours master artisans with National Handicrafts Awards 2023-24.

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Handicrafts Awards 2023 and 2024 in New Delhi, recognizing outstanding craftsmanship and the country's rich artistic heritage.

She highlighted the sector's vital role in livelihoods, especially in rural areas, employing over 32 lakh people 68% of them women.

The event celebrated 12 Shilp Gurus and 36 national awardees across diverse craft categories, reflecting India's commitment to preserving and promoting traditional handicrafts.

For 2023, the Shilp Guru Award in the hand-painted textiles category was presented to Ajit Kumar Das of West Bengal, while D Sivamma from Andhra Pradesh received the award in the leather puppet category.

The National Awards for 2023 were conferred to Hirabai Jhareka Baghel of Chhattisgarh for metal craft, Imtiyaz Ahamad of Uttar Pradesh for handmade carpet, and Roshan Chhipa from Rajasthan for artistic textiles. For 2024, the Shilp Guru Award was presented to Subhash Arora from Haryana in the Metal Craft category, and Mohammad Dilshad from Uttar Pradesh in the wood carving category. The National Awards for 2024 were given to T Baskaran of Tamil Nadu for stone carving, Rupban Chitrakar from

West Bengal for painting, and Baldev Baghmare of Madhya Pradesh under the tribal artisans' category.

## **Business and Economy**

### **RBI approves Airpay as cross-border payment aggregator to boost global transactions.**

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

The licence allows Airpay to offer payment aggregation across online, offline and international categories, positioning it as a full-stack payments infrastructure provider for Indian enterprises, D2C brands and SMEs.

### **Government directs IndiGo to cut 10% domestic flights amid operational crisis.**

The 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. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu summoned CEO Pieter Elbers, doubling the earlier DGCA-mandated cut.

The reduction affects high-frequency routes but not sectors where IndiGo is the sole operator.

## **Sports**

### **India dominates South Africa with 101-run win in T20 Series Opener at Cuttack.**

India clinched a commanding 101-run victory over South Africa in the opening T20 match at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack.

Batting first, India posted 175 runs, powered by Hardik Pandya's explosive 59 off 28 balls.

South Africa faltered in the chase, bowled out for just 74, as Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakravarthy and Axar Patel each claimed two wickets in a disciplined bowling display.