

## International

### 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, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. At least seven Cambodian civilians were killed and 20 others wounded in this conflict.

### Trump Launches Fast-Track Gold Card Visa for Wealthy Foreigners

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. The programme, aimed at high-level professionals, comes as his administration tightens immigration rules and raises visa costs. Businesses sponsoring employees must pay 2 million, while a forthcoming platinum version with tax breaks will cost 5 million dollars.

### 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. These five leaders work on issues ranging from climate justice to sustainable cooling and forest protection.

#### 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 – Inspiration and Action: A pioneer in sustainable cooling and ecosystem restoration

- Mariam Issoufou, Principal and Founder, Mariam Issoufou Architects, Niger/France – Entrepreneurial Vision: Her institution is redefining sustainable, climate-resilient buildings across the Sahel and inspiring a new generation of designers shaping Africa's built environment.
- Amazon, Brazil – Science and Innovation: A research institute combining science and AI-driven geospatial tools to curb deforestation
- Manfredi Caltagirone (posthumous) – Lifetime Achievement: He championed transparency and science-based action on methane.

### Maria 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 after she was briefly detained for joining supporters in a protest early this year in Caracas, Venezuela's capital.

The Nobel Institute awarded Machado the prize for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy in Venezuela.

## National

### IIT Madras and India AI Mission Hosts Global AI Conclave in Chennai

IIT Madras and the India AI Mission hosted a global conclave in Chennai to advance the country's vision for safe, trusted, and inclusive AI. The conclave, which convened ahead of the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, focussed on translating AI safety and governance principles into practice. It aims to build capacity and support AI frameworks that are globally interoperable yet locally grounded and scalable.

## Union Minister C. R. Patil Launches 'Jal Shakti Hackathon-2025' and Bharat-WIN Portal to Boost Water Innovation

Union Minister of Jal Shakti, C. R. Patil has launched the 'Jal Shakti Hackathon-2025' and Bharat-WIN Portal in New Delhi. The Hackathon aims to promote innovation in the water sector and make it a truly public good, accessible to all stakeholders. The launched portal seeks to promote practical, scalable and field-ready solutions to grassroots water challenges. The initiative expands the scope of water-sector research beyond a limited set of institutions, ensuring participation from a wide range of stakeholders.

## 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.

The tripartite MoU establishes a comprehensive framework for the exchange of technical information, maintenance philosophies, industrial practices, spare parts support, and personnel training, aimed at enhancing operational availability and lifecycle support for Scorpène-class platforms operated by both India and Brazil.

## 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. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) actively participated in the event, highlighting the depth, vibrancy and cultural significance of India's tribal languages.

A major highlight at the MoTA stall was the live demonstration of the Adi Vaani app, India's first AI-powered tribal language translator, by a team from IIT Delhi. Adi Vaani is an AI-powered initiative by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, designed to ensure India's tribal languages not only survive but thrive.

## Centre Sets Target of 100 Million Tonnes of Coal Gasification by 2030

The Government of India 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. In 2020, the Coal Gasification Mission was launched, aiming to gasify 100 million tonnes to maximise the value and utility of this vital resource.

With India importing approximately 83 per cent of its oil, over 90 per cent of its methanol, and 13 per cent ammonia, coal gasification offers an opportunity to reduce reliance on imports and conserve foreign exchange, especially in the oil, gas, fertiliser, and petrochemical sectors.

## 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, 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.

He added that the initiative aims at enabling people to reclaim their unclaimed deposits, insurance proceeds, dividends, and other financial assets.

### Former Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil Passes Away

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. Patil won Latur Lok Sabha seat seven times.

### Business and Economy

#### 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. The awards were decided from submissions by 294 banks globally.

#### 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.

Mexico has imposed duties on goods such as auto parts, light cars, clothing, plastics, steel, household appliances, toys, textiles, furniture, footwear, leather goods, paper, cardboard, motorcycles, aluminium, trailers, glass, soaps, perfumes, and cosmetics. Countries that do not have a trade deal with Mexico will be impacted, such as India, South Korea, China, Thailand, and Indonesia.

#### SBI, BoB Get RBI Nod to Set Up Fraud Detection Platform

State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) have received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to set up a company for creating a "Digital Payments Intelligence Platform". The company 'Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation' (IDPIC) will be established as a Section 8 company (a special type of non-profit organisation) under the Companies Act, 2013. 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. Forbes highlighted Gupta's pioneering work in developing data-driven investment frameworks and his leadership in creating scalable financial products as key factors behind his selection in the annual list.

#### US Federal Reserve Cuts Its Benchmark Interest Rate by 0.25 Percentage Points

The 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.

This is the Fed's third consecutive rate cut since September, totalling a 0.75 percentage point reduction this year. The move comes amid slowing job growth and persistent inflation, despite delays in key economic data due to the recent government shutdown.

### **RBI Completes Bond Buys, Takes FY26 Total to a Record High of ₹3.16 Trn**

The Reserve Bank of India 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.

It is slated to buy another 500 billion rupees next Thursday, and with nearly three-quarters of purchases concentrated in six- and seven-year maturities, traders expect the 10-year 6.33 per cent 2035 bond to be included in the next operation.

### **JPMorgan to Open First New Branch in India in Nearly a Decade After RBI Nod**

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

JP Morgan last received approval to open branches in India in 2016, when it was given the green light to set up in three locations.

### **IndusInd Bank Chairman 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 that prompted the departure of former CEO Suman Kathpalia and Deputy CEO Arun Khurana earlier this year.

IndusInd Bank's board has faced criticism from investors over shortfalls in oversight and delay in disclosing the accounting lapses in its derivative portfolio, which led to the hit to the bank's accounts.

### **RBI Eases Restrictions on Cash Credit Accounts, Eases Current Account Norms**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed all restrictions on banks opening and maintaining cash credit accounts under new transaction account rules. Cash credit acts as a short-term, flexible business loan for working capital. The regulator adopted the changes following industry feedback on draft rules issued October 1, 2025.

The RBI classifies current, overdraft, and cash credit accounts collectively as "transaction accounts".

A cash credit account is operationally different from a current or overdraft account, the central bank said, adding banks may now offer these facilities based on customer needs without restriction.

The RBI also eased norms for opening and maintaining current and overdraft accounts. Banks may now maintain current accounts without restriction for customers with banking exposures under 100 million rupees.

For exposures exceeding 100 million rupees, banks holding at least 10% exposure to a borrower may provide current and overdraft facilities.

Current accounts serve businesses and individuals with high transaction volumes.

### **Public Sector Bank Job Exams Get an Overhaul, SBI Results to Come First**

The Finance Ministry has introduced a series of measures aimed at tightening the timelines for recruitment examinations in public sector banks and speeding up the declaration of results. The measures covers recruitment for the State Bank of India (SBI), nationalised banks (NBs) and regional rural banks (RRBs).

Examinations for RRBs are usually conducted before those for NBs and SBI,

and the results are released in the same order. A notable trend has emerged, wherein newly recruited candidates frequently transition from RRBs to NBs, and subsequently to SBI. This migration has resulted in significant attrition within the banks and has posed operational challenges.

As a result, a new framework has been created, under which results will now be declared first for SBI, then for NBs and finally for RRBs. It said results for all officer-level examinations across these three categories will be released first, followed by clerical-level results in the same sequence.

## Sports

### South Africa Defeats India by 51 Runs in Second T20

South Africa defeated India by 51 runs in the second T20 encounter of the five-match series in Chandigarh. Chasing 214 for victory, India were bundled out for 162 with five balls to spare. Earlier, put into bat, the visitors posted 213 runs for the loss of four wickets in the stipulated 20 overs.

### 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. She can be voted for on the official website of the Asian Football Confederation or the AFC LIVE app.

Last year, she became the first Indian woman to play 100 international football matches.

### Jammu & Kashmir to Host First International Dangal and Rustam Title 2025

Jammu and Kashmir is set to host its first-ever International Dangal and Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025 at the iconic Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu, on 17 December, 2025. The championship will bring together professional wrestlers from India, Iran, and several other countries, making it one of the biggest wrestling events ever organized in the Union Territory.