

## International

### 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.

India highlighted wildfires as a growing global environmental threat and called for enhanced cooperation, early warning systems, and preventive planning.

Citing a UNEP report, India warned of a sharp rise in wildfire incidents in the coming decades and urged a shift from reactive response to proactive risk reduction.

### India–Austria hold 8th Foreign Office Consultations in Vienna.

The 8<sup>th</sup> round of India–Austria Foreign Office Consultations was held in Vienna, co-chaired by Secretary (West) Sibi George and Austria's Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Nikolaus Marschik. The discussions reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations and explored ways to strengthen India–EU ties.

Both sides also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest.

### India, Vietnam explore cooperation to safeguard living heritage.

India and Vietnam discussed ways to strengthen community ties and cultural networks for the promotion and preservation of living heritage.

The talks were held between officials of both countries on the sidelines of the 20th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in New Delhi.

The Ministry of Culture said the discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in protecting and promoting intangible cultural traditions.

## National

### CERT-In hosts cybersecurity interaction session for international journalists in New Delhi.

CERT-In, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, hosted a cybersecurity familiarization and interaction session for visiting journalists from Europe, America and Central Asia in New Delhi, in collaboration with the MEA. CERT-In Director General Dr Sanjay Bahl highlighted India's cybersecurity role, crisis response mechanisms, vulnerability assessments, and the growing ecosystem powered by startups, skilled professionals and AI-driven threat detection tools.

### Cabinet clears CoalSETU policy to reform coal linkage auctions.

The Union Cabinet has approved the CoalSETU policy to enable seamless, efficient and transparent auction of coal linkages for industrial use and exports. Introduced as a new window under the Non-Regulated Sector linkage policy, CoalSETU allows any domestic buyer to participate irrespective of end use.

The move aims to ensure fair access, optimal utilization of coal resources and greater flexibility in fuel usage.

### Sudha Murty launches 'Craftkatha 2025' celebrating India's artisan legacy.

Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty inaugurated Craftkatha–2025 in New Delhi as part of the National Handicrafts and Heritage Week celebrations. Organized by the Ministry of Textiles, the exhibition showcases artisans from across India, promoting traditional crafts, sustainable livelihoods, and young talent.

Held at Handloom Haat till the 17th, the event brings together master artisans, diverse craft traditions, and unique handmade products for the public.

## **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.

Data will be collected via mobile applications, with nearly 30 lakh field workers involved in the world's largest statistical exercise.

## **NCAER highlights growth in skilled workforce and job creation.**

A report by the National Council of Applied Economic Research has noted a rise in India's skilled workforce and improved productivity of small enterprises, driving strong employment growth.

Released by NCAER Vice Chairman Manish Sabharwal, the study stressed the role of skilling and small firms in job creation.

It also called for addressing workforce participation bottlenecks to sustain high GDP growth and inclusive development.

## **Business and Economy**

### **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.

The initiative aims to expand financial inclusion by enabling investor services through India Post's extensive network. It will provide access to modern investment products in rural and underserved areas, strengthening India Post's role as a key financial service provider.

## **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.

Rural inflation stood at 0.1 per cent, while urban inflation increased to 1.4 per cent.

Food inflation remained in deflation for the sixth straight month, easing to 3.91 per cent, mainly due to price movements in vegetables, eggs, meat, spices, and fuel.

## **Finance Ministry enhances grievance redressal in BFSI sector.**

The Ministry of Finance has announced measures to strengthen and streamline grievance redressal in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance sectors. The initiative will enable citizens to directly raise concerns, boosting customer trust.

Banks have been advised to use technology such as voice chat, email and QR codes to gather feedback, improve service quality, ensure faster resolution, and enhance transparency and customer service training.

## **MSME ministry partners with Amazon to support Vishwakarma artisans.**

The MSME Ministry has signed an MoU with Amazon Seller Services to expand online market access for artisans under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Amazon will onboard eligible artisans on its platform and promote handmade products through its Karigar initiative, while the Ministry will assist with registrations and approvals.

The partnership aims to enhance product visibility, boost sales, and digitally empower traditional artisans across India.

## Sports

### India dominates UAE in U-19 Asia Cup Opener.

India began their Men's Under-19 Asia Cup campaign in an emphatic fashion, defeating the UAE by a massive 234 runs in Dubai.

Batting first, India piled up 433 for 6, powered by Vaibhav Suryavanshi's explosive 171 off 95 balls.

Chasing a daunting target, the UAE were restricted to 199 for 7, with Deepesh Devendran picking up two wickets to seal a commanding win.