

#### **Daily Current Affairs**

(17th November 2025)

#### **International**

#### <u>China conducts first bomber-fighter</u> patrol over South China Sea.

The Chinese military has carried out its firstever bomber formation patrol with its fighter jets over the disputed South China Sea as a warning to the Philippines after its navy conducted joint patrols with the US and Japan. China, which claims most of the South China Sea, remains in a prolonged maritime dispute with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, all of whom have counterclaims in the strategic region that holds major international trade routes.

### Pakistan detains over 100,000 Afghans in 2025: UNHCR.

Pakistan has detained over 100,000 Afghans between January 1 and mid-November 2025, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Most arrests were made in the Chagai and Quetta districts of Balochistan and Attock districts of Punjab.

UNHCR said 76 per cent of those detained were Afghan Citizen Card holders or undocumented migrants, while the remaining 24 per cent possessed Proof of Registration cards.

#### <u>India's Art Director Thota Tharani</u> honoured with Chevalier title.

The French government's Chevalier rank title of The Order of Arts and Letters, or Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, for this year has been conferred upon art director Thota Tharani.

The Chevalier is the third of the three ranks, after Commandeur and Officier, in the Order of Arts and Letters. The only three Indian film personalities with the Commandeur title are screenwriter Mrinal Sen and actors Sharmila Tagore and Soumitra Chatterjee. Shah Rukh Khan is the only Indian film personality to be conferred the Officier rank.

#### **National**

## <u>India becomes the world's 6th largest patent filer: Dr Jitendra Singh.</u>

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, has said that India has emerged as the world's 6th largest patent filer with over 64 thousand patents, out of which more than 55 per cent are by resident Indian innovators. Addressing the Annual Tech Fest in New Delhi, Dr Singh highlighted that the country has climbed up from the 81st rank to the 38th in the Global Innovation Index.

# Indian Navy to commission first Maheclass Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft.

The Indian Navy will commission the first of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft named Mahe, in Mumbai on 24th of November. Mahe is built with over 80 per cent indigenous content, and it will showcase the country's growing mastery in warship design, construction, and integration.

The ship is designed to hunt submarines, conduct coastal patrols, and secure the nation's vital maritime approaches. The Mahe-class will represent the cutting edge of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative in naval ship design and construction.

### Noted environmentalist, Padma awardee Salumarada Thimmakka passes away.

Noted environmentalist and Padma awardee Salumarada Thimmakka passed away at the age of 114. Thimmakka, fondly known as Vruksha Mata, was widely admired for her simplicity and for inspiring countless women and environmentalists.

Thimmakka became an icon of grassroots environmental activism despite having no formal education. She gained national and international recognition for planting 385 banyan trees along a 4.5-km stretch between Hulikal and Kudur in the Ramanagara district.

## Amit Shah chairs 32nd Northern Zonal Council meeting in Faridabad.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Faridabad, Haryana. The meeting brought together member States and Union Territories of the Northern Zone to discuss issues of regional and national relevance. The forum provides a structured platform for cooperative dialogue between the Centre and States. As constituted under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Zonal Councils function as advisory bodies to address matters involving multiple States.

#### **Business and Economy**

# Ex-Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal's AI search startup Parallel raises \$100 million.

AI startup Parallel Web Systems, founded by former Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal, has raised \$100 million to build web search infrastructure for artificial intelligence agents and fund deals with online content owners.



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The Series A round, which values the company at \$740 million, was co-led by venture firms Kleiner Perkins and Index Ventures, with participation from other existing backers including Khosla Ventures.

#### <u>Sebi proposes key changes to streamline</u> IPO process.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed key changes to streamline IPO processes, addressing long-standing hurdles around locking in pre-IPO pledged shares and simplifying offer documents. The proposals are outlined in a new consultation paper and would require amendments to the Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements (ICDR) Regulations, 2018.

Under current rules, all pre-issue shareholding except that of promoters must be locked in for six months post-IPO. However, depositories are unable to enforce lock-in on shares that are pledged, often leading to last-minute compliance issues for issuers, particularly in companies with numerous or hard-to-trace shareholders.

## Axis Bank hosts multi-city knowledge series, Evolve in Kozhikode.

Axis Bank hosted the 10th edition of Evolve, its multi-city knowledge series for MSMEs in Kozhikode. The event brought together entrepreneurs, industry leaders and policy experts to discuss opportunities and challenges shaping India's MSME landscape, under the theme "MSMEs Powering the \$10 Trillion Economy".

With over 103 MSME promoters and founders in attendance, the session has served as a platform to discuss growth pathways and challenges defining India's next phase of growth from a \$4.1 trillion economy today to \$10 trillion by 2032.

## SBI to discontinue mCASH service after November 30, 2025.

State Bank of India (SBI) has announced that it will discontinue the mCASH sending and claiming facility on OnlineSBI and YONO Lite after November 30, 2025. This means customers will no longer be able to use mCASH to send money without beneficiary registration or to claim funds through the mCASH link or app once the service is discontinued. SBI has urged customers to switch to other secure and widely used digital payment options—such as UPI, IMPS, NEFT, and RTGS—for transferring money to third-party beneficiaries.

# RBI reconstitutes the Committee of Advisors of Irinjalakuda Town Co-op Bank.

The Reserve Bank of India has reconstituted the Committee of Advisors of Irinjalakuda Town Co-operative Bank. In October, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) superseded the Board of Directors of Irinjalakuda Town Co-operative Bank due to the lender's continued poor financial condition and issues related to governance standards

Raju S Nair, former Vice President of Federal Bank, was appointed as 'Administrator' to manage the affairs of the bank during this period.

## <u>Centre extends Mallika Srinivasan's tenure as PESB Chairperson until 2026.</u>

The central government has approved a second consecutive one-year extension for Mallika Srinivasan, Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the apex government body responsible for selecting top executives for India's Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Ms Srinivasan's extension will take effect from November 19, 2025, allowing her to continue leading the PSU head-hunter until November 18, 2026.

### Reliance HR chief Ira Bindra named among world's top CHROs.

Reliance Industries Ltd's Human Resources chief, Ira Bindra, has been named among the world's top CHROs, making Reliance the only Indian company represented on the list.

N2Growth, a global leader in executive search and leadership advisory, announced the 2025 Leaders40 Top Chief Human Resources Officers (CHRO) Award on November 14, 2025.

### Reliance to set up 1 gigawatt AI data centre in Andhra Pradesh.

Reliance Industries plans to set up a 1-gigawatt AI data center in India's Andhra Pradesh, adding to infrastructure capacity in India, where the likes of Google and Microsoft have made huge AI investments.

### Singapore Business Federation opens centre in Bengaluru.

The Singapore Business Federation has opened its fourth Singapore Enterprise Centre (SEC) in India, in Bengaluru, to help small enterprises in Singapore tap into Indian markets.



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The centre would offer advisory, networking, and business-matching assistance for international expansion. India was Singapore's largest source of FDI for the seventh consecutive year. The centre aims to engage over 470 enterprises in the next two years through trade missions, seminars, and market programmes.

#### **Sports**

### **Kushal Dalal wins GT Open Indoor World Series title in Luxembourg.**

Indian archer, Kushal Dalal, wins the GT Open Indoor World Series title in the men's compound category in Strassen, Luxembourg. Kushal has won the gold medal after defeating former world number one Stephen Hansen of the U.S. in a rare double shoot-off.

#### **Dhanush Srikanth wins Air Rifle Gold.**

Indian shooters started strong in the 2025 Deaflympics with Dhanush Srikanth winning the air rifle gold medal and setting a World Record of 252.2 points in Tokyo. He successfully defended his title from the last edition.

His compatriot Mohammed Vania secured silver with 250.1, completing a double podium finish for India. In the women's air rifle event, Mahit Sandhu and Komal Waghmare clinched the silver and bronze medals respectively, giving another double podium finish for India.

### South Africa beat India by 30 runs in Kolkata Test.

South Africa have defeated hosts India by 30 runs in the first Test of two-match series at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Chasing the target of 124 runs set by South Africa, India were all out for 93 runs in their second innings. Earlier, the visitors were bowled out for 153 after resuming their second innings at overnight score of 93 for 7.