

International

3.5 Million Afghan Children Face Severe Malnutrition, Says WFP

The World Food Programme (WFP) has said that 3.5 million children in Afghanistan face severe malnutrition due to shrinking aid operations. It warned that the country's worsening humanitarian conditions are leaving millions at risk. The WFP said they are working to support Afghan children through food-assistance programmes despite facing operational challenges.

GeM, UN Women Join Hands to Boost Women Entrepreneurs

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and UN Women have signed an agreement to enhance the empowerment and integration of women entrepreneurs into the country's public procurement ecosystem. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that the partnership focuses on promoting gender-responsive procurement by encouraging increased sourcing from women-led businesses, thereby expanding market access for women entrepreneurs under GeM's Womaniya initiative.

World Television Day on November 21

World Television Day is observed globally on November 21, following the proclamation of the United Nations General Assembly through a resolution adopted in 1996. India's television network connects 90 crore viewers across 23 crore households nationwide.

Television broadcasting in India began on an experimental basis on 15 September 1959, initiated by All India Radio. India's Media and Entertainment sector contributed 2.5 trillion rupees to the economy in 2024 and is projected to exceed three trillion rupees by 2027.

National

India, Germany to Boost Cooperation in Traditional Medicine

India and Germany have decided to advance collaboration on traditional medicine at the third Joint Working Group meeting on Alternative Medicine in Berlin. The Joint Working Group Meeting between the Ministry

of Ayush and Germany's Health Ministry was held from 18th - 20th November 2025. The discussions centred on integrating traditional medicine into public health systems, establishing reimbursement pathways for patient access, and strengthening regulatory approval mechanisms.

India, France Sign Pact to Boost Defence Research Cooperation

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Directorate General of Armaments (DGA) of France inked a technical agreement to deepen collaboration in defence research and development. This strategic partnership aims to leverage the combined expertise and resources of both nations to develop innovative solutions for future defence challenges.

Under the agreement, the transfer of equipment, technologies will be available to both countries. Key areas of cooperation outlined in this agreement include Aeronautical platforms, Unmanned vehicles, Advanced Materials for defence applications, Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence, Space, Navigation, Advanced Propulsion, Advanced Sensors, Quantum Technologies, Underwater Technologies and other areas of mutual interest.

TEC and IIT-Delhi Sign MoU on Telecom Research

Telecommunications Engineering Centre under the Department of Telecommunications has signed an MoU with Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, for joint studies and technical contributions in telecom technologies and global standardisation activities. The collaboration focuses on key domains, including AI in telecom, 5G and 6G, Renewable Energy Technologies, Software Defined Network and Network Function Virtualization.

New Labour Codes Come into Effect

The Central government has announced the implementation of four new labour codes aimed at simplifying and streamlining the existing, decades-old labour laws in the country. The new labour codes will ensure better wages, safety, social security and welfare for the country's workforce. The Code on Wages, 2019,

the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 have come into effect from November 21, 2025.

The four new labour codes will guarantee timely minimum wages for all workers, appointment letters for the youth, equal pay and respect for women, social security for 40 crore workers and gratuity for fixed-term employees after one year of employment. These reforms will also ensure free annual health check-ups for workers above 40 years of age, double wages for overtime, full coverage health security for workers in hazardous sectors and guarantee of social justice for workers as per international standards.

Sixth International Agronomy Congress to Begin in New Delhi on 24th November

The Sixth International Agronomy Congress (IAC-2025) will commence in New Delhi from the 24th of this month. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the event. The three-day event will feature plenary sessions, thematic symposia, lead lectures, poster presentations, an exhibition, and a dedicated Young Scientists and Students' Conference.

The theme for IAC-2025 is 'Re-envisioning Agronomy for Smart Agro-Food Systems and Environmental Protection'

Crop loss due to Wild Animal Attacks and Paddy Inundation to be Covered under Fasal Bima Yojana

The crop loss due to Wild Animal Attacks and Paddy Inundation will now be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry said that under the revised framework, crop loss due to wild animal attack will now be recognised as the fifth add-on Cover under the Localised Risk category, while Paddy inundation has been reintroduced under the localised calamity. The Ministry said that states will notify the list of wild animals responsible for crop damage and identify vulnerable districts or insurance units based on historical data. It said that farmers will be required to report losses within 72 hours using the Crop Insurance App by uploading geotagged photographs. The decision will be rolled out from Kharif 2026.

INTACH to Launch Gaja-Lok

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has announced to launch of Gaja-Lok: Elephant Lands and their Cultural Symbolism in Asia, an initiative aimed at documenting and exploring the transnational connections of the Asian elephant, highlighting the intertwined cultural, historical, ecological, and climate resilience narratives across elephant-range countries in Asia.

Bringing together academicians, cultural experts, and conservationists, the Gaja-Lok Exhibition and Roundtable mark the beginning of a multi-country dialogue that positions the elephant as both a cultural icon and a living emblem of ecological resilience.

India Expands Visa-on-Arrival for UAE Nationals to Cochin, Calicut, and Ahmedabad

India has expanded its Visa-on-Arrival (VoA) facility for UAE nationals to include Kochi, Calicut and Ahmedabad international airports, adding to the existing centres in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. With this move, UAE citizens now have access to VoA at nine major entry points across India.

The facility is available exclusively to UAE nationals who have previously obtained an Indian e-visa or a regular paper visa.

India Launches First Indigenous CRISPR Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease

Science and Technology Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, has launched the country's first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for Sickle Cell Disease, which primarily affects the country's tribal population. The therapy, named BIRSA 101, is dedicated to Bhagwan Birsa Munda, whose 150th anniversary was observed on the 15th of this month. The treatment was created by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) in partnership with the Serum Institute of India (SII).

First India-born cheetah Gives Birth to Five Cubs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh

First India-born cheetah gives birth to five cubs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. This was disclosed by Minister for Environment,

Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav. A 33-month-old India-born female cheetah named Mukhi has given birth to five cubs in Kuno National Park, raising the total number of cheetahs in the country to 32.

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Second Bharatiya Kalamahotsav at Hyderabad

President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the second edition of Bharatiya Kalamahotsav at Rashtrapati Nilayam in Hyderabad. The nine-day-long cultural festival is being organised by Rashtrapati Nilayam in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Tourism. This festival aims to present the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu.

The first edition of Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav introduced the people to the cultural legacy of Northeast India.

Business and Economy

RBI Announces UPI-TIPS Interlinkage to Enhance Cross-Border Payments with Euro Area

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced interlinking of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system with fast payment systems of other jurisdictions to promote cross-border payments. The Reserve Bank of India and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) have been engaging with the European Central Bank on the initiative to connect UPI with the TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS), the instant payment system operated by the Eurosystem. Following constructive and sustained engagement, both sides have agreed to start the realisation phase for the UPI-TIPS link.

The proposed UPI-TIPS interlinkage aims to facilitate cross-border remittances between India and the European Union, and is expected to benefit users in both jurisdictions.

India Reports Record 8% Growth in Foodgrain Output

Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that there has been a record growth rate of eight per cent in total

foodgrain output. Mr Chouhan said this after releasing the final estimates of crop production for 2024-25 in New Delhi. Rice production in the country has reached a record level of one thousand 501 lakh tonnes, higher than last year's one thousand 378 lakh tonnes. Wheat production has increased by 46.53 lakh tonnes, reaching a new record of 1179.45 lakh tonnes. This is a significant increase over last year's output of 1132.92 lakh tonnes.

AMD, Cisco, and Saudi's Humain Launch AI Joint Venture, Land First Major Customer

Advanced Micro Devices, Cisco Systems and Saudi Arabian artificial intelligence startup Humain are forming a joint venture to build data centres in the Middle East and have landed their first customer.

The yet-to-be-named joint venture will kick off with a 100-megawatt data centre project in Saudi Arabia, the computing capacity of which Humain has contracted to supply generative video startup Luma AI.

RBI Cautious in its Approach to Stablecoins, Cryptos, says Governor

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is adopting a cautious approach towards cryptocurrencies and stablecoins, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said. Stablecoins and cryptos have a huge risk, and hence the RBI is adopting a very cautious approach towards them. India is leaning towards not creating legislation to regulate crypto and will instead maintain partial oversight, fearing that bringing the assets into its mainstream system could raise systemic risks.

Globally, US dollar-backed stablecoins have amassed a market capitalisation of over \$300 billion, while the overall market cap of crypto tokens has climbed to more than \$4 trillion, according to industry data provider CoinGecko.

Mule Hunter Tool to Check Digital Fraud is Showing Good Success Rate: RBI Governor

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has said the Mule Hunter tool launched to check digital fraud is showing a good success rate. MuleHunter.ai, an AI-enabled tool designed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to flag mule accounts, is detecting about 20,000 mule accounts every month.

Mule accounts are intermediary in the movement of fraudulent funds. It helps in channelling and siphoning off fraudulent money. Last year, the RBI launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)-based model, namely MuleHunter, to prevent and mitigate digital fraud through the use of mule accounts.

Nasscom Unveils U.K. Forum to Back Doubling of Bilateral Trade

Nasscom, the apex body of Indian IT, has announced the launch of its U.K. Forum, a strategic industry platform aimed at deepening bilateral technology and trade partnership between India and the United Kingdom. The forum is expected to build a multistakeholder strategic partnership across both governments, the technology industry, enterprises, associations, academia, think tanks, analysts, and the Indian diaspora.

SEBI Unveils Reforms to Improve FPI Experience

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is working on a series of reforms aimed at improving the experience of foreign portfolio investors FPIs. SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the regulator is working on building a best-in-class entry and operating environment for global investors. The new system will be fully paperless, leveraging digital signatures and enhanced security measures to address data privacy considerations. Stating that foreign investors remain central to Indian markets, Mr Pandey said FPIs hold 17 per cent of country's listed equity market, with total assets reaching 876 billion US dollars.

TPG Agrees to Invest \$1 billion in TCS's AI Data Center Business HyperVault

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) said TPG, an alternative asset management firm, has agreed to invest about \$1 billion in its AI data centre business called HyperVault as an equity partner.

This investment will support HyperVault's GW-scale AI-ready infrastructure build and aligns with TCS' plan to create AI-ready data centres with capacity in excess of a GW over the next few years.

Govt Notifies Capital Gains Scheme, Expands Digital Payment Options

The Central government has notified the Capital Gains Accounts (Second Amendment) Scheme, 2025, amending the 1988 framework that allows taxpayers to temporarily park capital gains in a designated bank account to claim tax exemption while they search for or construct a new property.

The amendment introduced on November 19 effectively modernises the scheme by introducing digital payments, electronic statements and online account closure. The scheme is commonly used by individuals who are unable to reinvest capital gains before the income tax return deadline.

A key reform is the inclusion of electronic payment modes — credit and debit cards, net banking, IMPS, UPI, RTGS, NEFT and BHIM Aadhaar Pay — for making deposits into CGAS accounts. Until now, taxpayers largely depended on cheques and demand drafts.

RBI Intends Not to Let Banking System Go Dry

The Reserve Bank of India intends to maintain system liquidity of more than 1% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) and will intervene if it stays in the deficit for a sustained period. The central bank reassured bankers about its strategy. Recent interventions in the currency spot market and festive season demand caused liquidity to briefly turn negative. The RBI plans to use measures like variable rate reverse repo auctions to maintain liquidity.

Sports

Anahat Singh to Face Joshna Chinappa in All-Indian Women's Final

In Squash, Anahat Singh will take on Joshna Chinappa in an all-Indian women's final of the Indian Open in Indore. In the semifinals, top seed Anahat edged out Irish third seed Hannah Craig 11-4, 10-12, 9-11, 11-6, 11-4, while unseeded veteran Joshna rallied to beat Egyptian second seed Nadien Elhammamy 7-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-7.

Lakshya Sen Enters Australian Open Semifinals

In the Australian Open Badminton, India's Lakshya Sen advanced to the Men's Singles semifinals after defeating his compatriot Ayush Shetty in the quarterfinal match 23-21, 21-11 in Sydney. Lakshya will clash with Taiwanese player TC Chou in the semifinal match

India to Face USA in U19 World Cup 2026 Opener

India will take on the USA in the opening match of the U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026. The tournament will be played from 15th January to 6th February of the next year in Zimbabwe and Namibia. The event features 16 teams across four groups and 41 matches.