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NATIONAL

Overview of 8th ISA Assembly Held from October 27 to 30, 2025, in New Delhi

The Government of India (GoI), in partnership with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), hosted the **8th Session of the ISA Assembly** from October 27 to 30, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The assembly was chaired by Union Minister, Ministry of Power (MoP), and co-chaired by **Benoit Faraco**, the special envoy for Climate Negotiations, France.
- The opening plenary of the 8th ISA Assembly was inaugurated by the President of India, **Droupadi Murmu**, who called for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Highlights of 8th ISA Assembly:

Theme: The 2025 assembly was held under the theme titled “**One Sun, One World, One Grid**”.

China Joins ISA: Ashish Khanna, Director-General (DG) of the ISA, announced that China will join ISA to expand its global reach.

ISA Initiatives 2025:

SUNRISE Initiative: During the event, Solar Upcycling Network for Recycling, Innovation & Stakeholder Engagement (SUNRISE) initiative was launched by GOI.

ISRO Launched India's Heaviest Military Communication Satellite 'CMS-03' from Sriharikota, AP

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched India's heaviest military communication satellite named 'CMS-03' or also known as **GSAT-7R**, which weighs **4,410 kilogram (kg)**, aboard its indigenously made '**Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3-M5)**' rocket, also dubbed as 'Bahubali' from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- LVM3-M5 rocket, previously known as Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV Mk-III), has successfully deployed the country's heaviest communication satellite into the designated Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- This marked the **5th** operational flight of LVM3 launcher, previously used for 'Chandrayaan-3 mission', where in, India became the world's 1st country to land successfully near the lunar South Pole.

CMS-03 or GSAT-7R: It is a multi-band communication satellite that will enhance communication services across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) for the Indian Navy (IN).

Kerala Becomes First Indian State to Eliminate Extreme Poverty

Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, declared that Kerala had become the **first state in India to eradicate extreme poverty**, under the Extreme Poverty Alleviation Project (EPAP), during a special session of the Kerala Legislative Assembly held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on Kerala Piravi (State Formation Day).

Exam Hints:

- **What?** Kerala declared as India's first extreme-poverty-free state
- **Announced by:** Pinarayi Vijayan, CM of Kerala
- **Project:** Extreme Poverty Eradication Project (EPEP)
- **When?** 1st November 2025 (Kerala Formation Day)
- **Launched in:** 2021
- **Beneficiaries Identified:** 1.03 lakh individuals from 64,006 families

About Extreme Poverty Eradication Project (EPEP):

Launch: The EPEP was launched in 2021 by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government to make Kerala free from extreme poverty by 2025.

Identification: 1,03,099 individuals from 64,006 families identified through local surveys based on food, health, housing, and livelihood indicators.

Funding : Over **Rs. 1,000 crore** spent; monitored by Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and the Local Self-Government Department (LSGD).

Key Achievements: Provided essential documents to 21,263 individuals, ensured food security for 20,648 families, offered housing to 4,677 families (including land and houses to 2,713).

India's First SiC Semiconductor Manufacturing Plant to be Set Up in Odisha

Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated India's first end-to-end Silicon Carbide (SiC) semiconductor at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, marking a major step toward the nation's self-reliance in semiconductor manufacturing.

- The project has been approved under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

About the SiCSem Semiconductor Project – Odisha:

Project Overview: The project, implemented by **SiCSem Private Limited**, a subsidiary of Archean Chemical Industries Limited, involves the establishment of an Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP) and manufacturing facility for SiC-based compound semiconductors.

Collaboration: The facility will be built by SiCSem Private Limited in collaboration with UK-based Clas -SiC Wafer Fab Ltd, marking a major milestone in India's semiconductor and power-electronics ambitions.

Total investment: **Rs.2,067 crore**; land allotted by Industrial Development Corporation of Odisha (IDCO) (23 acres).

Production Capacity: The facility will have an annual capacity of 60,000 SiC wafers and 96 million packaged units, and is expected to become operational by **2027–28**.

Maharashtra Becomes First State to Sign Deal with Starlink

The Government of **Maharashtra** has announced that it becomes the **first state** in India to sign a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Elon Musk's **Starlink Satellite Communications** Private Limited, a subsidiary of SpaceX, to provide **satellite-based internet services** across government institutions, rural communities, and critical public infrastructure.

Exam Hints:

- **What?** LoI signed
- **Between:** Maharashtra Government & Starlink
- **To?** Provide satellite-based internet services
- **Target Area:** Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Washim, and Dharashiv.

About Starlink-Maharashtra Partnership:

Target Areas: Starlink will deploy high-speed internet access in remote and underserved districts such as **Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Washim, and Dharashiv** in Maharashtra where traditional fiber connectivity is limited.

Planned Deployment: Satellite internet terminals will be installed in schools, health centres, disaster control rooms, and forest and coastal outposts, while connectivity will extend to key transport routes, ports, ferries, and coastal police networks.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Year-long Commemoration of 150th Anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' in New Delhi, Delhi

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long national commemoration of "Vande Mataram", national song of India, during the Inaugural Ceremony, organized by the Ministry of Culture, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The celebration marks the start of a year-long nationwide campaign, which will continue until **November 7, 2026**.
- During the event, PM Narendra Modi released a Rs.150 commemorative stamp and Rs.150 coin and launched a dedicated [portal](#) marking the 150th anniversary of the national song "Vande Mataram."

About Vande Mataram:

Overview: Vande Mataram, written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in **1875**, was originally composed in Sanskritised Bengali. It was first published in his literary magazine Bangadarshan as part of the novel Anandamath and was later as a standalone book in 1882.

First Sung: The song was first sung publicly at the Indian National Congress (INC) session in 1896 by Rabindranath Tagore.

Adoption: On 24 January **1950**, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then President of the Constituent Assembly, declared "Vande Mataram" as the **National Song of India**, giving it equal status with the National Anthem "Jana Gana Mana."

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Uttarakhand on November 09, 2025

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** visited Uttarakhand to participate in a programme marking the **Silver Jubilee(25)** Celebrations of formation of Uttarakhand (carved out of Uttar Pradesh (UP) on November 09, 2000) at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in **Dehradun**, Uttarakhand.

- During the programme, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several development projects worth over **Rs 8,140 crore**, of which, projects worth more than

Rs 930 crore were inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for projects worth over Rs 7,210 crore.

Highlights of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Uttarakhand:

Releases: In order to mark the 25th anniversary of Uttarakhand's foundation day, PM Modi also released a special series of postage stamps issued by the **Uttarakhand Postal Circle** symbolizing the state's major natural heritage sites and cultural symbols.

- In addition to that, he launched a coffee table book titled 'Gauravshali Ateet, Sashakt Vartaman aur Sunehra Bhavishya'.

JSW Energy Commissioned India's Largest Green Hydrogen Plant in Karnataka

JSW Energy Limited has commissioned its 1st and India's largest green hydrogen manufacturing plant at Vijayanagar in Karnataka. This new facility was established under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) and its Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme Tranche-I.

Exam Hints:

- **What?** JSW Energy commissions India's largest green hydrogen plant
- **Where?** Vijayanagar, Karnataka
- **Under:** National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) & PLI Scheme Tranche-I
- **Supply:** 3,800 TPA green hydrogen + 30,000 TPA green oxygen to JSW Steel's DRI unit
- **Programme:** Part of 6,800 TPA allocation under SECI's SIGHT programme
- **Targets:** 30 GW generation capacity and 40 GWh energy storage by FY30
- **Alignment:** 5 MT green hydrogen per annum by 2030
- **MoU:** With JSW Steel to increase supply

About Green Hydrogen Plant :

Supply: This newly commissioned facility will supply 3,800 Tons Per Annum (TPA) of green hydrogen and 30,000 TPA of green oxygen directly to the steelmaker's Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) unit for low-carbon steel production under a 7-year offtake agreement.

- This initiative is part of its 6,800 TPA allocation under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (**SIGHT**) programme by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

Union Minister Rajnath Singh Unveils "My Stamp" dedicated to Rezang La War Memorial

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) unveiled a special commemorative "My Stamp" honouring the valour of the 13th Battalion of the Kumaon Regiment, which fought under Major Shaitan Singh Bhati (Param Vir Chakra, PVC) during the **1962 India–China War** at Rezang La, a mountain pass in Ladakh.

About "My Stamp":

Issued by: The stamp, based on the Rezang La War Memorial in Ladakh, was issued by the Department of Posts (**DoP**), Ministry of Communication.

Launched by: The tribute was launched by the makers of '*120 Bahadur*', a war film inspired by the events of Rezang La.

63rd Anniversary: The customized stamp, unveiled ahead of the 63rd anniversary on November 18, 2025.

Rezang La War Memorial: The Rezang La War Memorial, located in Chushul, Ladakh, continues to stand as a symbol of their valor and unwavering spirit.

MeitY Notifies Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**), Government of India (GoI), notified the Digital Personal Data Protection (**DPDP**) **Rules, 2025**, operationalizing the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (**DPDP Act, 2023**).

Phased Implementation:

- **Rules 1, 2, 17–21:** Effective from 13th November 2025 (covering the Data Protection Board's constitution and procedures).
- **Rule 4:** Effective from 13th November 2026 (Registration and obligations of Consent Managers).
- **Rules 3, 5–16, 22–23:** Effective from 13th May 2027 (18 months later) (covering core obligations like consent, notices, and data breach reporting).

Key Provisions :

Scope: Establish procedures, obligations, and safeguards for collection, processing, storage, and erasure of personal data.

Consent & Notices: Data Fiduciaries must provide **clear, itemised notices** detailing personal data collected, purpose, and withdrawal mechanisms (Rule 3).

Consent Managers: Must register with the **Data Protection Board (DPB)** (Rule 4).

Breach Notification: Notify affected users and DPB within **72 hours** with details and mitigation steps.

Data Retention & Erasure: Personal data must be erased once purpose is served; data principals notified **48 hours prior** (Rule 9). Logs and essential records retained for a minimum **one year**.

DPDP Board Composition: Chairperson and 3 Members, appointed through search-cum-selection committees chaired by the Cabinet Secretary (for Chairperson) and Secretary, MeitY (for Members).

PM Narendra Modi Addressed Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas; Inaugurated Development Projects Worth Rs 9,700 Crore in Gujarat

Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** addressed the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas programme, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of revered tribal leader and freedom fighter Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda, in Dediapada town of the tribal-dominated Narmada district in Gujarat.

- During the event, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth **more than Rs 9,700 crore**.

Key Highlights of PM Modi's Visit:

Establishment of Govind Guru Chair : While addressing the event, PM Modi announced the establishment of Shri Govind Guru Chair for Tribal Language Promotion Centre (TLPCC) in

Narmada district, Gujarat.

Key Projects Inaugurated: During his visit, PM Modi participated in the Grih Pravesh of 1 lakh houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (**PM-JANMAN**) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (**DA-JAGUA**).

India's First Commercially Built PSLV Set to Launch Oceansat Satellite in 2026

Dr. V. Narayanan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) announced the launch of the **Oceansat Satellite** into orbit by the first commercially built Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (**PSLV**)-**PSLV N1** rocket in **2026** at the 7th India Manufacturing Show (IMS) 2025 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- He also unveiled the plan to transfer **50%** of PSLV development to an Indian Industry consortium, led by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen and Toubro Limited (L&T).

Exam Hints:

- **What? India's First Commercial PSLV Set to Launch a satellite in 2026**
- **Satellite:** Oceansat
- **PSLV Developer:** HAL and L&T
- **PSLV Transfer:** 50%
- **Contract:** Five PSLV-XL rockets (2022)
- **1st Commercial PSLV Launch:** 2026

Background: In 2022, ISRO under the commercialisation initiative led by New Space India Ltd (NSIL) signed a contract with the HAL and L&T consortium for the end-to-end production of five PSLV-XL rockets, marking the full industry-led manufacturing of PSLV, with an aim to focus more on advanced missions and Research and Development (R&D).

- Earlier, PSLV was wholly manufactured by ISRO.

Role of Entities: As per the contract, the consortium handles different stages such as manufacturing, integration of the full rocket, avionics, testing, and launch support.

- ISRO provides technology and design, final mission clearance, and launch infrastructure.

Alignment: The move aligns with the Government of India (GOI)'s vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) in the space sector.

About PSLV: It is a four-stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid propulsion and includes six extended strap-on boosters characteristics of the PSLV-XL variant, giving it higher lift capacity.

About Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO):

Chairman – Dr. V. Narayanan

Headquarters – Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established – 1969

Four New Labour Codes made effective to Simplify and Streamline Labour Laws

The Government of India (**GoI**) announced the enforcement of **four major labour codes**, the Code on Wages (2019), the Industrial Relations(IR) Code (2020), the Code on Social Security (2020), and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions(OSHWC) Code (2020).

- These labour codes come into effect from **21 November 2025**, replacing and consolidating 29 existing labour laws into a unified framework.

Code of Wages, 2019:

Overview: This code consolidates the **four** existing laws – The Payment of Wages Act, 1936; The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; and The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

Minimum Wages: The code establishes a statutory right to minimum wages for all employees across both organised and unorganised sectors.

Industrial Relations(IR) Code, 2020

Fixed Term Employment (FTE): Permits fixed-term contracts that offer the same wages and benefits as permanent employees, with gratuity eligibility after one year.

Expanded Worker Definition: Covers sales promotion staff, journalists, and supervisory employees earning up to Rs 18,000/month.

Code on Social Security, 2020

Coverage: The Code extends **social security to all workers**– including unorganized, gig, and platform workers-covering life, health, maternity, and provident fund benefits.

Inclusion of Gig and Platform Workers: New definitions are included- “aggregator,” “gig worker,” and “platform worker” to enable social security coverage.

Working Hours & Overtime: Normal working hours capped at 8 hours/day and 48 hours/week. Overtime allowed only with worker consent and paid at twice the regular rate.

GoI Designates CISF as New Security Regulator for Indian Sea Ports

The Government of India(GoI) has designated the Central Industrial Security Force (**CISF**) as the new nodal **safety and security regulator** for nearly 250 major and minor seaports across India.

- The notification was issued by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**) and confirmed by Ajay Dahiya, Deputy Inspector General of CISF.

CISF's Role in Seaport Security:

Role: The CISF has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation (**RSO**) for **seaports**, functioning as the regulator to oversee and ensure their security.

Functions: The CISF will conduct security assessments, prepare plans, and handle core security duties at seaports.

Responsibilities: CISF will handle counter-terrorism, anti-sabotage, EXIM(Export-Import) terminal security, and surveillance of critical port assets, ensuring uniform security across government and private ports.

INTERNATIONAL

Dictionary. com Chooses “67” as Word of the Year 2025

Dictionary.com named “67(six – seven)” as its 2025 Word of the Year, reflecting the viral humor and chaos of online culture.

- The yearly selection acts as a “linguistic time capsule,” capturing the social trends and global events that shaped the year.

Exam Hints:

- **What?** ‘67’ as word of the year
- **Declared by?** Dictionary.com
- **Pronounced as?** Six-Seven
- **Created by?** Gen Alpha

About the word ‘67’:

Term: Six seven(not sixty-seven) has become an internet trend, blending a song lyric, meme, and youth slang into one viral expression.

Origin: The trend began with Skrilla’s song “Doot Doot (6 7)”, where versions like 6 7, 6-7, or six-seven are used.

Impact: For Gen Alpha, “67” works as an inside joke or secret code, and for others, it reflects the fast-changing nature of language in the digital age.

Meaning: “67” can mean “so-so” or “maybe,” often shown with a playful hand gesture, though many use it just for fun or humor.

Nepal Releases NPR 100 Currency Note Featuring 3 Indian Territories ‘Kalapani, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura’

Nepal Rastra Bank (**NRB**), the Central Bank of Nepal, released a new Nepalese Rupee (**NPR**) **100** which features Nepal’s revised political map, including disputed territories like **Kalapani**, **Lipulekh**, and **Limpiyadhura** as part of Nepal.

- Currently, the three territories are controlled by the Government of India (GOI) but claimed by Nepal.

Exam Hints:

- **What?** 3 Indian territories are featured in new NPR 100 currency note
- **Indian Territories:** Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura
- **Issued by:** Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)
- **Front Side:** Mt Everest, Revised Map, watermark of Rhododendron, Ashoka Pillar
- **Back:** One-horned rhinoceros

NPR 100 Note Features:

Front: It features Mount (Mt) Everest on the left, revised map of Nepal in faint green colour in the background at the centre, watermark of Rhododendron, Nepal's National flower, on the right, and security features.

- The Ashoka Pillar is printed near the map with the text “Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha”.

Back: It features the One-horned rhinoceros.

About Politically Revised Map of Nepal: In May 2020, the Government of Nepal, led by K.P. Sharma Oli adopted a new official political map of Nepal, which includes the disputed areas such as Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura. The revised political map is included only in the NPR 100 and in no other denomination.

Note: Nepal shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Sweden Becomes World's First Cashless Society

Sweden became the world's first society to operate as a cashless society, where digital payments replace physical currency in everyday transactions.

- As per the Sveriges Riksbank, Central Bank of Sweden, the total amount of cash, including banknotes and coins, is **less than 1%** compared to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Sweden.

Exam Hints:

- **What?** World's First cashless country has emerged
- **Country:** Sweden
- **App:** Swish
- **Cash in Sweden:** Less than 1% of its GDP

Cashless Initiatives:

Application: In 2012, Sweden launched “**Swish**”, a mobile payment application(app) service linked to bank accounts, allowing transfers using smartphones, which has become the primary mode of payment.

- The government deployed digital payments in cafes, museums, and transport systems, with an aim to encourage the usage of digital payments.

Digital Currency: Sweden is testing a government-backed digital currency called the e-krona to keep the economy stable as it shifts to a cashless system.

Benefits: It includes reducing queues, changing handling, preventing theft loss, and unrecorded transactions through cash are included in formal economy.

Khangchendzonga NP Rated 'Good' by IUCN, Only Indian Site to Receive Positive Status

Khangchendzonga National Park(NP), in Sikkim, has been rated 'Good' by the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in the **4th** edition of its World Heritage Outlook, making it the only Indian natural heritage site to receive such recognition

- IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2025 was released at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in October 2025 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

About IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4:

Total Sites Covered: This latest edition of outlook has assessed 271 natural and mixed world heritage sites including 231 natural sites and 40 are mixed sites, across 115 countries.

Biodiversity Threats: The IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4 report highlights climate change, tourism, invasive species, and road development as key threats to South Asia's biodiversity, classifying sites as "Good," "Good with Some Concerns," "Significant Concern," or "Critical" based on conservation status and urgency of action.

Conservation Status of India's Natural Heritage Sites: Kaziranga NP (Assam), Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers NP (Uttarakhand), and the Great Himalayan NP Conservation Area (Himachal Pradesh, HP) have been rated '**Good with Some Concerns**' by the IUCN, reflecting effective conservation with minor challenges.

- Western Ghats, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (Assam), and the Sundarbans (West Bengal, WB) have been rated as '**Significant Concern**', indicating pressing conservation issues that require immediate attention.

Bangladesh Joined UN Water Convention, Becomes 1st South Asian Signatory

Bangladesh became the 1st South Asian country as well as 56th country globally, to join the **United Nations (UN) Water Convention** which is officially known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, on June 20 2025.

- This move is expected to help Bangladesh in protecting and managing waterways that represent a 'lifeline to peace and prosperity'.

About UN Water Convention:

Legally Binding: It is a unique legally binding instrument which aimed at promoting the sustainable management of share water resources and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Background: The UN Water Convention was formally adopted in **Helsinki, Finland** in **1992** but officially came into force in 1996.

Time Out's City Life Index 2025 : Mumbai ranked as Asia's happiest city; Abu Dhabi as world's happiest city

The Time Out, the United Kingdom(UK-based media and lifestyle organization has recently published the **City Life Index 2025**, which ranks the happiest cities across Asia. According to the 2025 Index, **Mumbai(India)** topped **Asia's happiness chart**, with 94% of residents saying the city makes them happy.

- Beijing and Shanghai in China ranked second and third, with 93% and 92% of residents reporting being happy.

About City Life Index 2025:

Survey: Around 18,000 people participated in the survey to rate their hometowns across several key aspects, from culture, nightlife and food to affordability and overall quality of life.

Chiang Mai and Hanoi: **Chiang Mai** in Thailand and **Hanoi** in Vietnam rank in the top 4 and 5, each with 88% of residents saying their city makes them happy. Both cities are praised for their green spaces, slow pace of life and close-knit community, perfect for those who want peace and connection.

Lower Rank: Seoul (South Korea), Singapore, and Tokyo (Japan) ranked lower on the happiness list.

Abu Dhabi: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) ranked the world's happiest city in 2025, with:

Other Ranks: The 2nd place was occupied by Medellin in Colombia, followed by Cape Town in South Africa (SA).

QS World University Rankings Sustainability 2026: IIT Delhi Topped in India; Lund University Topped Globally

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), global higher education experts, released the **4th** edition of 'QS World University Rankings: Sustainability (2026)'. As per the latest rankings, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) in New Delhi (Delhi) has emerged as India's best performing institution for the 2nd consecutive year, securing **205th** position globally with an overall score of **83.1** (down from 171st spot in last year's ranking). This year, no Indian Institution featured among the world's top 200 sustainable universities.

- **Lund University** (Sweden) topped the 2026 global sustainability rankings for the first time since the index began in 2023, followed by the University of Toronto (Canada) and University College London (the United Kingdom, UK) in 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

Key Highlights:

Other Top 10 Universities: Other universities in the global top 10 include the London School of Economics (LSE), UK at 6th, Imperial College London, UK at 7th, UNSW Sydney, Australia at 8th, McGill University, Canada at 9th, and the University of Manchester, UK at 10th in the rankings.

Most Represented Country: The United States of America (USA) with **240** institutions has emerged as the most represented country on the list, followed by China (163), the UK (109), India (103) and France (76).

India-Specific:

Total Indian Institutions Featured: This year, a total of **103** Indian institutions (including 26 new entries) featured on the list, making it the world's **4th** most represented country in the rankings.

- Out of 103 Indian universities featured in this year's edition, 32 have improved their ranking, 15 retained their previous year ranking, and 30 have dropped.

Other Top Indian Institutes: IIT Roorkee(Uttarakhand) secured the 352nd position with a score of 74.9, followed by IIT Banaras Hindu University(BHU), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh(UP) at 672nd with 62.5, and IIT Hyderabad(Telangana) at 792nd with a score of 58.7 in the 2026 rankings.

Cambridge Dictionary Names ‘Parasocial’ as 2025 Word of the Year

The Cambridge Dictionary has announced ‘parasocial’ as its Word of the Year 2025, highlighting the growing global trend of one-sided emotional connections people form with celebrities, influencers, fictional characters, and Artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots.

- The announcement coincides with the addition of 6,000 new words to the dictionary, including trending internet terms like ‘delulu’, ‘slop’, ‘skibidi’, and ‘tradwife’.

Exam Hints:

- **What?** Parasocial is declared as Word of the Year
- **By?** Cambridge University
- **Origin?** 1956
- **Term Coined by?** Donald Horton and Richard Wohl
- **Other Shortlists 2025:** Pseudonymization; Memeify.

About word “Parasocial”:

Definition: Parasocial is an adjective that describes a connection someone feels with a celebrity they do not know, a character in a book, film, or Television(TV) series, or an AI character.

Origin: The term, originally coined in 1956 by sociologists Donald Horton and Richard Wohl. It is now relevant as social media, livestreams, and AI bring people closer to digital personalities.

Dictionary Entry: Parasocial was added to the Cambridge Dictionary in 2023 after lexicographers observed its frequent use in news articles and on social media.

Other Shortlists 2025: Besides parasocial, the Cambridge Dictionary (CD) shortlisted pseudonymization (masking personal data) and memeify (turning something into a meme).

Kantar’s Brandz Top 100 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2025: HDFC Bank Emerged as the Most Valuable Brand Replaces TCS

Kantar Group, world’s leading marketing data and analytics business, released the latest edition of ‘Kantar Brandz’s Top 100 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2025’ report. As per the report, HDFC Bank Limited, India’s largest private sector bank, has emerged as India’s most valuable brand, registering 18% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth to **USD 44.99 billion**, replacing Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) which slipped to 2nd position, with a total valuation of USD 44.23 billion.

- **Airtel** (USD 41.1 billion) and **Infosys** (USD 25.54 billion) ranked at **3rd** and **4th** positions respectively.

About Kantar BrandZ Report 2025:

Total Value Indian Brands: As per the report, the combined value of India’s 100 most valuable brands reached **USD 523.5 billion** (accounting nearly 13% of country’s Gross Domestic Product

(GDP). This marked a 6% Y-o-Y growth, with 34 companies witnessing increase in their brand value.

Other Top 10 Most Valuable Indian Brands: : India's largest Public Sector Bank, State Bank of India (SBI) (ranked at 6th spot, valued at USD 18.80 billion); UltraTech Cement (ranked at 7th spot); Reliance Jio (ranked at 8th spot, valued at USD 14.05 billion); and HCL Technology (ranked at 9th spot, valued at USD 12.82 billion) and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) (ranked at 10th spot, valued at USD 10.34 billion).

Fastest-Rising Brand: **Zomato**, Online Food company, continued to be the fastest-rising brand for the second consecutive year, jumping 10 places to 21st spot and approximately doubling its brand value to **USD 6 billion**.

Top 5 Biggest Gainers: The report revealed that travel brands like luxury hotel brand **Taj** (ranked at 43rd spot; valued at USD 2.9 billion, +55%); India's largest airline **IndiGo** (ranked at 24th spot; USD 5.1 billion; +42%) emerged among this year's biggest gainers.

New Entrants: A total of **18 Indian brands** debuted in this year's list of India's top 100 most valuable brands.

Saudi Arabia is designated as 20th major non-NATO ally by USA President Donald Trump

USA (United States of America) President Donald Trump designated Saudi Arabia as a major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally during a black-tie White House dinner with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, marking a major boost to U.S.-Saudi defence cooperation.

- With this designation, Saudi Arabia became the **20th country** to receive major non-NATO ally status.

Exam Hints:

- **What?** Designation of Saudi Arabia as Major Non- NATO ally
- **By?** USA President Donald Trump
- **No. of Country?** 20th country to receive this status
- **Key Agreement?** Defence Agreement and
- **Military Deal?** Sale of F-35 Fighter jets
- **Investments?** Saudi pledged to raise investment from USD 600 billion to 1 trillion

About the Designation of Saudi Arabia:

Defence Agreement: The announcement accompanied the signing of a strategic defence agreement, which strengthens military coordination, fortifies deterrence across the Middle East, and provides Saudi Arabia priority access to U.S. military equipment. The designation offers military and economic privileges but does not create any binding security commitments.

Sale of F-35 Jets: Trump also approved the future sale of F-35 advanced fighter jets to Saudi Arabia. Both sides agreed on expanded cooperation in civil nuclear energy, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, and joint research initiatives.

Overview of COP30 Summit Held from November 10 to 21, 2025 in Belem, Brazil

The 30th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference or 30th Conference of the Parties (**COP30**) to the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place from November 10 to 21, 2025, in Belem, Brazil.

- The COP30 summit was presided over by Brazilian diplomat **André Aranha Corrêa do Lago**, who served as the COP30 President.

Highlights of COP30 Summit :

Participation: The summit witnessed participation from over 195 countries, world leaders, negotiators, scientists, civil society groups, indigenous communities, youths, and international organizations.

Indian Delegation : The Indian delegation at COP30 was led by Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

USA Skips: For the first time in COP history, the United States of America (USA) was absent from the summit, after its Office of Climate Diplomacy was closed.

Reports Launched at COP30:

Global Cooling Watch Report 2025: On November 11, 2025, During the summit, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched the 2nd edition of the Global Cooling Watch Report. The report highlights that global cooling demand could increase more than threefold by 2050 under a business-as-usual scenario.

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2026:

Overview: On the sidelines of the COP30 summit, Germanwatch, an environmental think tank, in collaboration with New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network (CAN), released the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2026. As per the index, **India ranks 23rd** with a score of 61.31, dropping 13 positions compared to last year.

- - No country has achieved a “very high” rating to be ranked in the top three spots. Countries such as USA ranked 65th with a score of 27.63, Islamic Republic of Iran (66) (14.33), and Saudi Arabia (67) (11.90) were ranked in the “Very Low” category.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi’s Visit to South Africa for 2025 G20 Leaders’ Summit

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** undertook a three-day official visit to South Africa from November 21–23, 2025, to participate in the **20th Group of 20 (G20) Leaders’ Summit**, marking his 12th G20 summit.

- The 2025 G20 Summit, held from November 22–23, 2025, at the Johannesburg Expo Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, was the first G20 summit ever hosted on the African continent.

Highlights of PM Narendra Modi’s Visit to South Africa:

Arrival: On November 21, 2025, PM Narendra Modi arrived at Waterkloof Air Force Base in Johannesburg and received a ceremonial welcome.

PM Narendra Modi Participates in G20 Summit: On November 22, 2025, he addressed the

Opening session of the G20 summit titled “Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth-Leaving No One Behind”, emphasizing reforming development financing, promoting inclusive and sustainable growth, and enhancing the voice of the global south. During the session, he proposed six ideas for the G20.

•**Overview:** The 2025 G20 Summit, hosted by South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa**, was the fourth consecutive G20 Summit held in the Global South.

•**Theme:** The 2025 summit was held under the theme titled “**Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability**”.

G20 Adopts Joint Declaration: During the summit, the G20 leaders agreed and adopted the **122-Point Leaders’ Declaration** emphasized solidarity, equality, and sustainability, highlighting multilateral cooperation and the priorities of the Global South.

UN World Urbanization Prospects 2025 : Jakarta Tops as Most Populous City, New Delhi Ranks Fourth

The Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (**UNDESA**), released the “**World Urbanization Prospects 2025**”, highlighting a dramatic increase in the number of megacities (urban areas with over 10 million (mn) inhabitants).

•**Jakarta**(Indonesia) has become the **world’s most populous city** with 41.9 million residents, while **Dhaka**(Bangladesh) and **Tokyo**(Japan), rank second and third with 36.6 million and 33.4 million inhabitants, respectively.

•**New Delhi**, India, ranks fourth among the world’s most populous cities, with a population of **30.2 million**.

DEFENCE

11th Edition of Indo-Sri Lanka “Exercise Mitra Sakthi” Begins in Belagavi, Karnataka

The **11th** edition of the India–Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise ‘**Mitra Shakti**’ commenced at the Foreign Training Node, **Belagavi, Karnataka**, and will continue till 23rd November 2025.

- The exercise aims to strengthen bilateral military cooperation, enhance interoperability, and improve joint capability in counter-terrorism operations under the United Nations (UN) mandate.
- **Launched: 2013**
- **Previous Edition: 2024 – held at Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka**

Background:

Launch: Launched in **2013**, Exercise Mitra Shakti(“Power of Friendship”) is an annual joint military exercise conducted alternately between India and Sri Lanka.

Previous Edition: The 10th edition, held in 2024 at the Army Training School in Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka.

Aligns with: It also aligns with India’s “Neighborhood First” and “Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)” initiatives.

About Mitra Shakti-2025:

Focus: The exercise focuses on joint rehearsals of sub-conventional operations in urban and semi-urban environments.

Quad Naval Exercise MALABAR 2025 Begins at Guam, Northern Pacific Ocean

The **29th** edition of the multilateral Exercise **Malabar(2025)** began at **Guam** in the Northern Pacific Ocean (NPO), hosted by the United States of America (**USA**).

- The nine-day Quad naval exercise, involving the navies of India, the USA, Japan, and Australia, will run until 18 November 2025.

Background:

Origin: The MALABAR Exercise was initiated in **1992** as a bilateral naval exercise between **India** and the **USA** to enhance interoperability and strengthen maritime cooperation between the two navies.

Expansion: Japan became a permanent member in 2015, followed by Australia, which joined permanently in 2020, transforming MALABAR into a four-nation (Quad) naval exercise.

Previous Edition: The 28th edition of Exercise Malabar, conducted under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), was held from 8 to 18 October 2024, and was hosted onboard INS Satpura at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

About Exercise MALABAR 2025:

Scope: The exercise will include advanced maritime operations such as high-tempo drills and fleet manoeuvres, aimed at strengthening coordination and interoperability among the Quad navies.

India-Vietnam Military Exercise VINBAX 2025 Begins in Hanoi, Vietnam

The **6th** edition of Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise (**VINBAX**), a bilateral military exercise between India and Vietnam, began on November 11, 2025, at the National Military Training Centre 4 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

- The 18-day exercise, which will continue till November 27, 2025, brings together around 300 personnel from the Indian Army (**IA**) and the Vietnam People's Army (**VPA**).

Exercise VINBAX 2025:

Inaugural Ceremony: It was presided by Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Defence (MoD), and Senior Lieutenant General Phung Si Tan, Deputy Chief of General Staff, VPA.

Participants: From the Indian side, troops from an Engineer Regiment and a Medical Corps detachment under the Southwestern Command.

8th India-France Bilateral Air Exercise ‘Garuda’ Begins in France

The Indian Air Force (**IAF**) and the French Air and Space Force (**FASF**) began the 8th edition of the bilateral air exercise ‘**Garuda**’ at the Mont-de-Marsan Air Base in France. The exercise will run until 27 November 2025.

Background:

Origin: Exercise Garuda, launched in **2003**, is a bilateral air combat exercise between the IAF and the FASF, conducted alternately in India and France to strengthen interoperability, coordination, and operational capabilities.

Previous edition: 7th edition of Garuda exercise was held at Jodhpur Air Force Station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan from 26 October to 12 November 2022.

Focus: The exercise centres on air-to-air combat, air defence operations, and joint strike missions conducted in high-intensity simulated combat environments.

Participation: The IAF is participating with **Su-30MKI fighter aircraft** supported by C-17 Globemaster III airlift and IL-78 air-to-air refuelling tankers, operating alongside **French Rafale** and other multirole fighters in complex air-combat scenarios.

8th India-UK Army Exercise ‘Ajeya Warrior’ Commenced in Rajasthan

The **8th** edition of joint bilateral military exercise ‘**Ajeya Warrior**’ between the **Indian Army (IA)** and **the British Army** commenced at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (**MFFR**) in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

- This biennial exercise, scheduled to run till November 30, 2025, aims to strengthen operational synergy in joint **counter-terrorism operations** in semi-urban environments under Chapter VII of the United Nations (UN) mandate.

About Exercise Ajeya Warrior:

Key Objectives: During the 14-day long exercise, armies of both countries will participate in a series of tactical drills aimed at bolstering operational synergy, interoperability and coordination in complex conflict scenarios.

Key Activities: The military exercise will feature certain activities like: joint planning, drone-

based surveillance, casualty evacuation procedures, and mission-based field exercises in simulated battle conditions.

Indian Navy Commissions Indigenously Built ASW-SWC ‘INS Mahe’ in Mumbai, Maharashtra

Indian Navy (IN) commissioned **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mahe**, the first indigenously designed and built Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercraft (ASW-SWC) at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The ceremony was presided over by General **Upendra Dwivedi**, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)
- **Mascot:** Cheetah

Host: The ceremony was hosted by Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.

About INS Mahe:

Name Significance: The vessel INS Mahe is named after the historic coastal town of Mahe in Puducherry, reflecting India’s Maritime heritage.

Mascot: The ship’s crest features the **Urumi** sword, symbolising agility and precision, and its mascot, the **Cheetah**, represents speed and focus.

Developer: INS Mahe, developed by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), is the lead ship of eight vessels in Mahe class. INS Mahe will serve as a “Silent Hunter” on the Western Seaboard with over 80% indigenous content, reflecting the Government of India (GOI)’s vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

India-Nepal Joint Military Exercise ‘Surya Kiran XIX’ Begins in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand

The Indian Army (IA) and Nepal Army (NA) commenced the **19th** edition of the India–Nepal joint military exercise ‘**Surya Kiran 2025**’ in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.

- The exercise, which will continue until 8 December 2025, aims to enhance counter-terrorism capabilities, jungle and mountain warfare skills, and operational interoperability between the two forces.

Background:

Exercise: The exercise is an annual military exercise conducted between India and Nepal, held alternately in the two countries.

Previous Exercise: The 18th edition of the Indo-Nepal joint military exercise ‘Surya Kiran’ took place in January 2025 at Saljhandi, Nepal.

The Nepalese contingent, also consisting of 334 personnel, is mainly represented by troops from the Devi Datta Regiment.

APPOINTMENT/RESIGNATION

Justice Surya Kant Appointed as 53rd CJI; Take Oath on November 24, 2025

The Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J), announced that the President of India, **Droupadi Murmu**, has appointed **Justice Surya Kant**, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court (SC), as the **53rd** Chief Justice of India (CJI) under Article 124(2) of the Indian Constitution. He will be the first CJI from Haryana.

- He will officially assume the charge on **November 24 2025**, succeeding incumbent **CJI Bhushan Ramkrishna (BR) Gavai**, who is set to retire on November 23, 2025.
- He will retire from this post on February 09, 2027 on attaining the age of 65 years.

About Surya Kant:

Law Practice: Justice Surya Kant started his law practice from his home town i.e. at District Court in Hisar in Haryana in 1984 and later, he shifted his practice to the Punjab and Haryana High Court(HC) in Chandigarh in 1985.

Youngest Advocate General: On July 7, 2000, at age 38, he became the youngest Advocate General of Haryana and was designated Senior Advocate in March 2001.

Judicial Career: In January 2004, he was appointed as a permanent judge to the Punjab and Haryana HC. He was appointed as the CJ of the Himachal Pradesh (HP) HC on October 05, 2018, before being elevated to SC on May 24, 2019.

NALSA: He served as a member of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)'s governing body (2007–2011) and has been its Executive Chairman since May 24, 2025.

Justice Ashok Bhushan Re-appointed as NCLAT Chairman till July 2026

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi, approved the re-appointment of **Justice Ashok Bhushan**, former Supreme Court Judge, as the **Chairman** of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (**NCLAT**).

- According to an order issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions(MoPP&P), he will continue in office till he attains the age of 70 on **4th July 2026**.

About Justice Ashok Bhushan:

Judicial Career: He was appointed as a permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court(HC) in April 2001, later served as Chief Justice of the Kerala HC in 2015, and was elevated to the Supreme Court of India(SCI) in May 2016, where he served until July 2021.

Additional Role: He was also appointed as Chairman of the Ravi Beas River Tribunal in July 2020.

NCLAT: He was initially appointed as the Chairperson of the NCLAT on 8 November **2021**, succeeding Justice Bansilal Bhat, who was serving in an acting capacity.

Egypt's Khaled El-Enany Elected as 12th Director-General of UNESCO

Khaled El-Enany of Egypt was elected as the new Director-General(DG) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) for a four-year term, securing 172 out of 174 votes at the 43rd General Conference held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

- Khaled el-Enany will succeed **Audrey Azoulay**(France) who is set to retire on 15 November 2025.
- He is the 12th DG of UNESCO, becoming the first from an Arab country and only the second African to hold the position since Amadou Mahtar Mbow of Senegal (1974–1987).

About Khaled El-Enany:

Profile: He is an Egyptologist and Professor at Helwan University, Egypt, with over 30 years of teaching experience, having held roles including Vice Dean, Director of the Open Learning Center, and Head of the Tour Guide Department.

Current Position: Professor of Egyptology, Helwan University, Cairo

Previous roles: He has held several prominent positions in Egypt's cultural and heritage sector, including

- Minister of Antiquities (2016–2019)
- Minister of Tourism and Antiquities (2019–2022)
- Director, National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (2014–2016)
- Director, Egyptian Museum, Cairo (2015–2016)

International Roles: In November 2024, he was appointed Special Ambassador for Cultural Tourism by the World Tourism Organization(WTO) and became Patron of the African World Heritage Fund.

Nitish Kumar Sworn-in as Bihar's CM for Record 10th Time

The President of Janata Dal (United) JD(U) party, **Nitish Kumar** officially **sworn-in** as the Chief Minister (**CM**) of **Bihar** for a record **10th** time, after his party and its alliance partners under BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won the 2025 Bihar state assembly elections.

- Later, he was unanimously elected as leader of both the JD(U) legislature party and NDA legislature party.
- With this, Kumar continues to be one of the longest-serving CMs in India as he has been in power for nearly 2 decades, except a brief 9-month gap in 2014-15.

Other Key Highlights:

Oath Administered by: The Governor of Bihar, **Arif Mohammad Khan** administered the oath of office and secrecy to Nitish Kumar and his **26** Council of Ministers during the swearing-in ceremony held at Gandhi Maidan (in Patna, Bihar) which has previously hosted his inaugurations in 2005, 2010 and 2015.

Deputy CMs: Apart from Nitish Kumar, leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) **Samrat Choudhary** and **Vijay Kumar Sinha** also took oath as Deputy CMs of Bihar for the 2nd time.

- Earlier, both leaders served as Bihar's Deputy CM from January 2024 to November 2025.

Election Results: BJP-led NDA won **202 seats** in the 243-member assembly against Mahagathbandhan (MGB) which managed to secure only 35 seats.

ICC Names Rohit Sharma as Brand Ambassador for 2026 T20 World Cup

Jay Shah, chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC), announced former India captain Rohit Sharma as the Tournament Ambassador for the ICC Men's Twenty20(T20) World Cup 2026, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from 7 February to 8 March 2026.

About Rohit Sharma:

Career: He led India to the **2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup title** and is one of the most accomplished players in the format. He has scored 4,231 Twenty20 International (T20I) runs at an average of 32.01 and a strike rate of 140.89.

Achievements: He is among the few cricketers to have played in all nine T20 World Cup editions. He is also one of the only players to have won the Men's T20 World Cup twice, in 2007 and 2024.

Retirement: He retired from T20Is after India's **2024** triumph, ending the team's 11-year ICC trophy drought.

Justice Vikram Nath Appointed as Executive Chairman of NALSA

The President of India, Draupadi Murmu, appointed Justice Vikram Nath, senior-most judge of the Supreme Court (SC) of India, as the new Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), effective **24 November 2025**, following a notification issued under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

- The appointment follows the elevation of **Justice Surya Kant** as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI), marking the seniority-based transition in line with established conventions.

About Justice Vikram Nath:

Career: He enrolled with the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh(UP) in 1987 and practiced at the Allahabad High Court(HC) for 17 years before his elevation to the Bench.

- He has served as a Judge of the Allahabad HC, later becoming the Chief Justice(CJ) of the Gujarat HC before his elevation to the Supreme Court(SC) in 2021.

Innovation: He became the first CJ of a HC in India to live-stream court proceedings, reflecting his focus on transparency and judicial innovation.

Legal Services: He previously served as Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), enhancing access to justice and promoting institutional reforms.

India's CEC Gyanesh Kumar to Chair IIDEA in 2026

Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that Gyanesh Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), will assume the Chair of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA) on **December 3, 2025**, during the Council of Member States meeting in Stockholm, Sweden.

- As Chair, he will preside over all council meetings throughout 2026.

About IIDEA: It is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1995, working to strengthen democratic institutions worldwide. It has 35 member countries, with the United States of America (USA) and Japan as observers.

- It promotes inclusive, accountable, and resilient democracies. India is its founding member.

AWARDS/HONOURS

Lucknow from UP, Designated as UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy under UCCN

On the occasion of World Cities Day(WCD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated **Lucknow** (Uttar Pradesh, UP), the city of nawabs, as a ‘**Creative City of Gastronomy**’ under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

- The announcement was made during the ‘43rd session of UNESCO’s General Conference’ held in Samarkand, **Uzbekistan**, placing Lucknow among 70 global gastronomy hubs.
- With this recognition, Lucknow became the **second Indian city** after **Hyderabad** (Telangana) to receive this title under the UCCN.

UNESCO Expands Creative Cities Network in 2025 with 58 New Members:

UCCN: It was established in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities that recognize creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

Creative Field: In 2025, for the first time, the UCCN expanded its scope by introducing ‘**Architecture**’ as a new creative field, joining its seven existing fields Crafts and Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music.

Gogabeel Lake in Bihar Designated as India’s 94th Ramsar Site

Union Minister **Bhupendra Yadav**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced that **Gogabeel Lake** in Katihar district of **Bihar** has been officially designated as Ramsar Convention Sites of International Importance, bringing the total number of internationally recognised Ramsar sites in India **to 94**.

- With this addition, Bihar now has **six** Ramsar Sites, ranking **third in India** after Tamil Nadu(TN) (20 sites) and Uttar Pradesh(UP) (10 sites).

Ramsar Sites in India:

Total Area: India now hosts 94 Ramsar sites, covering a total area of **13,60,805 hectares**.

Global Dominance: With the latest additions, India holds the highest number of Ramsar Sites in South Asia and ranks **first in Asia**, while globally, it stands **third**, after the United Kingdom(UK) (176 sites) and Mexico (144 sites).

1st Ramsar Sites in India: In 1981, Chilka Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (NP) (Rajasthan) were recognised as the 1st Ramsar sites in India.

Recently Added Ramsar Sites: Before Gogabeel Lake, Gokul Jalashay (448 ha) in Buxar district and Udaipur Jheel (319 ha) in West Champaran district were designated as India’s 92nd and 93rd Ramsar Sites, respectively.

About Ramsar Convention on Wetlands:

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was adopted in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

Secretary-General (SG)- Dr. Musonda Mumba

Headquarters – Gland, Switzerland.

Sunil Kant Munjal Conferred France's Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite

Sunil Kant Munjal, Chairman of Hero Enterprise and Founder of the Serendipity Arts Foundation, was conferred the **Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite** (Knight of the National Order of Merit), one of France's highest civilian honours, by the Ambassador of French to India H.E. Thierry Mathou, in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The award recognises his contributions to education, culture, and innovation, and his efforts in strengthening cultural and institutional ties between France and India through arts and philanthropy.

About Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite:

Overview: Knight of the National Order of Merit was instituted in 1963 by General Charles de Gaulle.

Purpose: The honour is conferred upon individuals who have rendered distinguished services in public, civil, military, or private fields.

Classes of the Order: The Ordre national du Mérite consists of five classes including three ranks Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), and two higher dignities Grand Officier (Grand Officer), and Grand-Croix (Grand Cross).

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Honoured with 2025 World Leader for Peace and Security Award

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living Foundation, has been honored with the **2025 World Leader for Peace and Security Award** by the Boston Global Forum (BGF) and the AI World Society (AIWS), at Harvard University in Cambridge, the United States of America(USA).

- The award recognizes his significant contributions to global peace-building, reconciliation, and humanitarian service
- **Previous Recipients:** Shinzō Abe (Japan), Angela Merkel (Germany), Ban Ki-moon (UN), Sauli Niinistö (Finland), Volodymyr Zelenskyy (Ukraine), Emmanuel Macron (France)

About World Leader for Peace and Security Award 2025:

Milestone: 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the award (2015–2025), honoring world leaders who exemplify moral courage, visionary leadership, and compassion in promoting global peace and ethical progress.

Focus: The 2025 award celebrates a decade of recognizing visionary leaders who advance 21st-century peace through inner harmony, interfaith dialogue, and ethical governance.

Hurun India Philanthropy List 2025: HCL Tech Founder Shiv Nadar tops the list with Rs.2,708 cr donation

The **12th** edition of the **Hurun India Philanthropy list** has been released by the EdelGive Foundation in partnership with Hurun India, in which **Shiv Nadar** (80) and his family retained the title of **India's Most Generous donors** for the fourth time in five years.

- As per the report, **Shiv Nadar**, founder-chairman of HCL Technologies, donated **Rs 2,708 crore (cr)** during Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), averaging over **Rs 7.4 cr** every day, a 26% increase from the previous year.
- Mukesh Ambani and family ranked second with Rs.626 crore in donations, up 54% year-on-year, followed by the Bajaj family at Rs.446 crore, marking a 27% increase.

About the Hurun India Philanthropy List 2025

Donation FY25: The Hurun India Philanthropy list 2025 measures the donations by the value of their cash or cash equivalents from **1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025**.

Total Philanthropists: The 2025 list features **191 philanthropists**, who cumulatively donated Rs 10,380 cr, up by 85% compared to three years ago.

- The top 10 philanthropists together contributed Rs 5,834 cr, accounting for 56% of total giving and top 25 alone contributed Rs 50,000 cr in the same period.

Other Top 10 Corporate Donors: Kumar Mangalam Birla and family ranked fourth with Rs.440 crore, followed by Gautam Adani and family in fifth place with Rs.386 crore.

- The top 10 also includes Nandan Nilekani (Rs.365 crore), Hinduja family (Rs.298 crore), Rohini Nilekani (Rs.204 crore), Sudhir & Samir Mehta (Rs.189 crore), and Cyrus & Adar Poonawalla (Rs.173 crore).

Bahrain's Interior Minister 'Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa' Received INTERPOL Medal of the Highest Order

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, Kingdom of Bahrain, received the INTERPOL Medal of the Highest Order from Major General Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, President of the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and Inspector General at the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- It was presented during the inaugural Middle East International Border Management and Technology Conference held in Manama, Bahrain.

About INTERPOL Medal of the Highest Order:

Recognition: General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received the INTERPOL Medal of the Highest Order in recognition of his exceptional contributions to international cooperation, global security, and efforts to combat organized crime.

Significance: The INTERPOL Medal of the Highest Order recognizes exceptional contributions to international cooperation and global security.

Award Criteria: The medal is presented to heads of state, Prime Ministers(PM), and interior ministers in recognition of their exceptional contributions to fostering international cooperation and promoting global security.

Salman Rushdie Honored with Dayton Peace Prize-Lifetime Achievement Award 2025

Renowned Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie was conferred with the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award(Lifetime Achievement Award) during

the Dayton Literary Peace Prize(DLPP) 2025 ceremony held in Dayton, Ohio, the United States of America (USA).

- The award, carries USD 10,000 cash prize, recognized his outstanding literary contribution and unwavering advocacy for freedom of expression, tolerance, and human dignity.

2025 Dayton Literary Peace Prize(DLPP) :

Commemorating Peace: The 2025 ceremony marked the **30th** anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords, which ended the Bosnian War.

2025 Winners:

- **Fiction:** ‘Martyr!’ by Kaveh Akbar , explores identity, faith, and cultural conflict(USD 10,000).
- **Nonfiction:** ‘The Burning Earth’ by Sunil Amrith, analyzes historical impacts on the global environment(USD 10,000).

Hungarian-British Author David Szalay Wins 2025 Booker Prize for Novel ‘Flesh’

Hungarian-British author **David Szalay** won the **2025 Booker Prize for Fiction** for his sixth novel “**Flesh**” at a ceremony held at Old Billingsgate, London, the United Kingdom (UK). He became the first author of Hungarian origin to receive the Booker Prize.

- He received the Booker Prize trophy from **Samantha Harvey**, the 2024 winner for her novel “**Orbital**.”
- **Shortlist:** Finalists included **Flesh**, **The Land in Winter**, **The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny**, **Flashlight**, **Audition**, and **The Rest of Our Lives**.

About 2025 Booker Prize:

Prize Money: David Szalay received a cash prize of British Pound Sterling (**GBP 50,000** (USD 66,000) along with a trophy.

Judging Panel: The judging panel was chaired by Roddy Doyle, the 1993 Booker Prize winner, and included Ayobámi Adébáyo, Sarah Jessica Parker, Chris Power, and Kiley Reid. ‘**The Rest of Our Lives**’ by Ben Markovits (British-American Novelist)

Novel “Flesh”: It is David Szalay’s sixth novel published in 2025 by Scribner, follows István, a reserved Hungarian man whose life evolves from humble beginnings in Hungarian housing estates to working among London’s elite.

- It was published by Jonathan Cape (Penguin Books Imprint), UK.

About David Szalay:

Background: He is a Hungarian-British author acclaimed for his insightful explorations of contemporary masculinity and social dynamics.

Works: His notable books include **London** and the **South-East**, **The Innocent**, **Spring**, and the short story collection **Turbulence**.

Achievements: Previously shortlisted for the 2016 Booker Prize for 'All That Man Is', he has also won the Betty Trask Award, Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, and Gordon Burn Prize.

- He was named among Granta's "Best of Young British Novelists" in 2013.

About Booker Prize:

Established: Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize is presented by the Booker Prize Foundation.

Purpose: The Booker Prize annually honours the best original, full-length work of fiction written in English and published in the United Kingdom (UK).

First Winner: P. H. Newby received the inaugural Booker Prize in 1969 for his novel 'Something to Answer For'.

Famous Hollywood Actor Tom Cruise Received Honorary Oscar at 16th Governor Awards

Famous Hollywood Actor and 4-time Oscar Nominee, Tom Cruise received the Academy Honorary Award, also known as Honorary Oscar. The award was presented to him by renowned film director Alejandro Gonzalz Inarritu at the 16th Governor Awards held at the Ray Dolby Ballroom in California, the United States of America (USA).

- Other than Cruise, American choreographer **Debbie Allen** and production designer **Wynn Thomas** were also conferred with honorary Oscar.
- Also, renowned American Actress, Songwriter and Philanthropist **Dolly Parton** was honoured with the **Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award**, considered as an **Oscar statuette**.
- **Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award:** Dolly Parton

About the Governor Awards:

Presented by: These awards are presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' (AMPAS) Board of Governors.

Background: These awards have been awarded annually since the inception of Academy Awards in 1929.

- However, since 2009, the awards have been presented at the Governors Awards in a separate ceremony.

Former Chile President Michelle Bachelet Conferred with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2024

Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, was presented the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development by Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust (IGMT), recognizing her contributions to peace, gender equality, human rights, democratic values, and strengthening India-Chile relations.

- **First Woman President of Chile:** Served two terms – 2006–10 & 2014–18
- **Notable UN Roles:** First ED of UN Women (2010–13); UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2018–22)

About Indira Gandhi Peace Prize:

Overview: It is an international award presented annually by the IGMT, honoring individuals or organizations working to promote international peace, disarmament, development and humanitarian work, and scientific, educational or environmental advancement.

Origination: In 1986, the award was instituted in the memory of the former Prime Minister (PM) Indira Gandhi, to celebrate her commitment to global peace and nation-building.

Award Components: It includes a citation, cash prize of Rs.25 lakhs, and a plaque.

About Michelle Bachelet:

Overview: Michelle Bachelet is a medical doctor and global human rights advocate.

Career: She served as the Minister of Health and Minister of Defence, becoming the first woman in Latin America to serve as the defence minister.

President: She became the first woman President of Chile, serving two terms from 2006–2010 and 2014–2018.

Key Roles in UN: From 2010 to 2013, she served as the first Executive Director(ED) of United Nations (UN) Women.

- From 2018 to 2022, she served as the High Commissioner of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- She was listed among Forbes' 100 Most Powerful Women, ranking 17 in 2006 and 22 in 2009.

About Chile:

President – Gabriel Boric

Capital – Santiago

Currency – Chilean Peso (CLP)

Swiss Tennis Player Roger Federer Elected to ITHF, Class of 2026

Switzerland tennis legend **Roger Federer** was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) **Class of 2026**, in his first year of eligibility, becoming the only player to secure the required 75% votes and earning recognition for a career spanning over two decades.

- The induction ceremony is scheduled to take place in Newport, Rhode Island, United States of America (USA), from August 27 to 29, 2026.

About ITHF Election – Class of 2026:

Eligibility Schedule: The ITHF has three induction categories Player, Contributor, and Wheelchair, with the Player Category considered annually, and the Contributor and Wheelchair Categories eligible every four years on an alternating cycle.

Other Inductee: Sportscaster and journalist **Mary Carillo** was elected to the ITHF Class of 2026 in the **Contributor Category**, becoming the first woman to regularly commentate on major tennis broadcasts.

Career Highlights of Roger Federer:

Grand Slams: From 1998–2022, he won 20 major singles titles, including 8 Wimbledon Championships, 6 Australian Open Tennis Championships, 5 US Open Tennis Championships (USA), and 1 French Open Tennis Championships, completing a career Grand Slam.

World No. 1: He held the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) World No. 1 ranking for a record 310 weeks, including 237 consecutive weeks, and finished as year-end No. 1 five times.

Olympics: Secured gold in doubles at the 2008 Beijing Olympics(China) and silver in singles at the 2012 London Olympics(the United Kingdom, UK).

Sportsmanship: Received the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award 13 times.

Miss Mexico Fatima Bosch Crowned Miss Universe 2025 in Thailand

Fátima Bosch Fernández from Mexico was crowned Miss Universe 2025 at the 74th Miss Universe pageant held at the Impact Challenger Hall in Nonthaburi in Bangkok, **Thailand**.

- She was crowned by her predecessor **Victoria Kjaer Theilvig** (Denmark) who held the Miss Universe title in 2024.
- With this win, Fátima Bosch becomes the **fourth Mexican** to claim the Miss Universe crown, following Lupita Jones (1991), Ximena Navarrete (2010), and Andrea Meza (2020).
- **Predecessor:** Victoria Kjaer Theilvig (Denmark)
- **Runner-up:** Praveenar Singh (1st runner-up, from Thailand) Stephany Abasali (2nd runner-up, from Venezuela)
- **India's Entry:** Manika Vishwakarma (Rajasthan) – top 30
- **Next Edition:** 75th Miss Universe, 2026 in Puerto Rico

Key Highlights :

Theme: Theme for the 2025 Miss Universe pageant, organised by the Miss Universe Organization(MUO), was '**The Power of Love**', focusing on unity, empowerment and resilience.

Hosted by: Famous American comedian **Steve Byrne**, hosted the competition, which saw the participation of representatives from 130 countries.

Other Key Winners: Indian origin Miss Thailand Praveenar Singh secured the 1st runner-up spot, followed by Miss Venezuela **Stephany Abasali**, who was named 2nd runner-up.

- Miss Philippines **Athisa Manalo** and Miss Cote d'Ivoire **Olivia Yace** were announced as the 3rd and 4th runner-up.

India's Representation: **Manika Vishwakarma** (from Rajasthan) represented India in the competition, made it to the top 30 contestants but failed to make it to the top 12 list, which resulted in her exit from the competition and extended India's wait for the crown since Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu's win title in 2021.

Indian in Judges Panel: India's Ace badminton player and Olympic medallist **Saina Nehwal** was one of the judges' panel of this year's Miss Universe pageant.

Next Edition: **Puerto Rico** will host the 75th, silver jubilee edition of Miss Universe pageant in 2026.

About Fatima Bosch Fernandez:

Profile: She was diagnosed with dyslexia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) at the age of 6, transformed these challenges into her strengths.

Career: She started her beauty pageant career in 2018 winning the Flor de Oro crown in Tabasco, Mexico.

- Later, she scripted history becoming the **1st woman** from Tabasco to win the Miss Universe Mexico title in September 2025 held at the Government Palace in Guadalajara, Jalisco (Mexico).

About Miss Universe Organisation (MUO):

President- Raul Rocha Cantu

Established- 1952

53rd International Emmy Awards 2025; India's Amar Singh Chamkila received nominations

The 53rd International Emmy Awards were held in New York City, USA (United States of America) celebrating excellence in television produced outside the United States presented by International Academy of Television Arts &Sciences (**IATAS**)

Nominees Across Categories:

Nomination: The 53rd International Emmy Awards featured a strong and diverse slate of nomination of 56 nominees across 16 competitive categories from 26 countries including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Qatar, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, India, South Africa, Italy, France, Mexico, Brazil, Netherlands, and more.

Nomination of India: India received two nominations for *Amar Singh Chamkila*, with **Diljit Dosanjh** nominated for **Best Actor** and Best TV Movie/Mini-Series.

Highlights of the 2025 Winners:

The Academy awarded **16 Emmy statuettes**, recognizing storytelling across continents.

Best Arts Programming: *Ryuichi Sakamoto* for the *Last Days* (Japan, **NHK** (Nippon Hoso Kyokai)

Best Performance by an Actress: *Anna Maxwell Martin* (UK) for *Until I Kill You*

Best Performance by an Actor: *Oriol Pla* (Spain)

Google Co-Founder Larry Page Becomes World's Second Richest Person

According to the Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires List, **Larry Page**, Co-Founder of Google, became the **world's second richest person** with the Net worth around **USD 255 billion**, surpassing Larry Ellison, Co-Founder of Oracle, worth USD 247.4 billion.

Background: Larry's wealth accelerated sharply following the surge of Alphabet stocks, which was driven by the launch of the new Gemini Artificial Intelligence (AI) model and strong growth in AI and Cloud services.

- On a single day, his wealth increased by USD 8.7 billion.

About Larry Page: In 1998, he co-founded Google with Sergey Brin and later became the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Alphabet. In 2019, he stepped down from daily operations and holds around 3.2% of shareholding.

- His net worth has expanded rapidly from USD 50.9 billion in 2020 to over USD 255 billion by late 2025.

India's 'Mahavat Narsimha' Enters Oscars 2026 Race for Best Animated Feature Film

India's mythological animated film **Mahavat Narsimha** was officially listed among 35 eligible films for the **Best Animated Feature Film** category at the **98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026)**, by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

- **Director:** Ashwin Kumar
- **Production:** Shilpaa Dhawan under Kleem Productions and Hombale Films
- **Significance:** First Indian animated film in Oscar contention in this category.
- **Oscar Ceremony:** March 16, 2026

About the Film Mahavat Narsimha:

Film Overview: A mythological animated epic directed by **Ashwin Kumar** and produced by Shilpaa Dhawan under Kleem Productions and Hombale Films, blending 2D–3D animation with an anime-inspired style.

Story & Universe: The film narrates the tale of Lord Narasimha, Prahlad, and Hiranyakashyap, and serves as the first instalment of a planned seven-part Mahavat Cinematic Universe based on Vishnu's avatars.

Oscar Eligibility: Listed among 35 qualifying animated features for the 98th Oscars, meeting AMPAS rules requiring a seven-day U.S.A (United States of America) theatrical run, over 40-minute runtime, and at least 75% animation.

Global Competition: The film will compete against major international animated titles such as KPop Demon Hunter, Zootopia 2, Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – Infinity Castle, The Bad Guys 2, and Elio.

SPORTS

Dabang Delhi K.C. Clinched Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 Title Over Puneri Paltan

Dabang Delhi Kabaddi Club (K.C.) clinched their second Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) **title** after defeating **Puneri Paltan** by **31–28** in the **Season 12 Final** held at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium, New Delhi (Delhi).

- Dabang Delhi became the first home team since U Mumba (Season 2, 2015) to lift the PKL trophy in front of their home crowd.
- **DD K.C. Title Count:** 2nd PKL Title (after Season 8)

2025 Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 Highlights:

Key Performers: Neeraj Narwal (8 points, Super Raid) and Ajinkya Pawar (6 points, first All Out) led Delhi's charge, while Aditya Shinde's Super 10 shone for Pune.

Coach Achievement: Coach Joginder Narwal guided Delhi with disciplined defense, achieving the rare feat of winning the PKL as both player and coach for the same franchise.

Record Breaker: Representing Dabang Delhi, Fazel Atrachali became the most successful foreign player in PKL history, solidifying his legacy as a defensive icon.

Puneri Paltan: Aditya Shinde secured a **Super 10**, while Abinesh Nadarajan contributed 4 tackle points and 3 Super Tackles.

Some Important Awards of the Season:

Most Valuable Player (MVP): Fazel Atrachali (Dabang Delhi K.C.)

Raider of the Season: Ayan Lohchab (Patna Pirates)

Defender of the Season: Navdeep (Patna Pirates)

New Young Player (NYP) of the Season: Deepak Sankar (Bengaluru Bulls)

About Pro Kabaddi League (PKL):

The Pro Kabaddi League, founded in **2014** by Mashal Sports Private Limited and Star India Private Limited, is a franchise-based professional kabaddi league governed by the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI).

Multiple PKL Titles: Patna Pirates (3), Jaipur Pink Panthers (2), and Dabang Delhi K.C. (2) have each won the Pro Kabaddi League championship multiple times.

Indian Tennis Player 'Rohan Machanda Bopanna' Announced Retirement from Professional Tennis

Indian tennis player **Rohan Machanda Bopanna**, a two-time Grand Slam champion and three-time Olympian, officially **announced his retirement** from professional tennis, marking the end of a remarkable career spanning more than two decades on the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour.

- He was honoured with the **Padma Shri (2024)**, Arjuna Award (2019), and Ekalavya Award (2005) in the field of sports for his outstanding contribution to Indian sports (Tennis).

Exam Hints:

- **Olympics Participation:** 3 (London 2012, Rio 2016, Paris 2024)
- **Awards:** Padma Shri (2024), Arjuna Award (2019)
- **Other Achievements:** Asian Games gold medallist (2018)

About Rohan Machanda Bopanna:

Professional Career: Rohan Bopanna began his professional tennis career in 2003 and established himself as one of India's most successful doubles specialists.

Grand Slam Achievements: He won two Grand Slam titles — the 2017 French Open (Mixed Doubles with Gabriela Dabrowski) in Paris, France and the 2024 Australian Open (Men's Doubles with Matthew Ebden), Australia. He is among the select four Indian players to have won a Grand Slam title.

World Ranking: In January 2024, he reached the World No. 1 ranking in men's doubles, becoming the oldest player in history to achieve this feat.

ATP Tour: He captured 26 ATP Tour doubles titles, including six prestigious ATP Masters 1000 tournaments.

Indian Women's Cricket Team Won First-Ever ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 Title Defeating South Africa

The Indian Women's Cricket Team won first-ever International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's One Day International (ODI) World Cup 2025 title, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in the final match held at the Dr. DY Patil Sports Academy, Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra).

- The **13th** edition of the ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 was held from September 30 to November 2, 2025.

About ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025:

Player of the Match: **Shafali Verma** (21 years) delivered a match-winning all-round performance of 87 runs and 2 wickets, earning the Player of the Match award in India's historic first Women's ODI World Cup victory.

Player of the Tournament: **Deepti Sharma** scored 58 runs and took 5/39 to become the first Indian with a five-wicket haul in a Women's World Cup final, earning the Player of the tournament award with 215 runs and 22 wickets.

Batting Record: **Smriti Mandhana** scored 434 runs at an average of 54.25, including one century and two fifties, becoming India's highest run-getter of the tournament, surpassing Mithali Raj's 409 runs (2017) and finishing second overall behind Laura Wolvaardt (470 runs).

Tournament Prize Money: The 2025 ICC Women's World Cup featured a total prize pool of Rs. 37.3 crore, reflecting a 239% rise from the previous edition. India, the champions, claimed USD 6.58 million (over Rs. 55 crore), while South Africa, the runners-up, received USD 3.24 million (around Rs. 27 crore).

BCCI Reward: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced an additional **Rs.51 crore cash prize** for the team, as declared by Secretary Devajit Saikia, BCCI.

Recent Retirements in Women's Cricket (2025):

- New Zealand (NZ) Women's Cricket Team Captain **Sophie Devine** announced her retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- Indian batter **Veda Krishnamurthy** announced her retirement from international cricket, concluding a 13-year career representing India in both One Day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).

New Zealand's Former Captain Kane Williamson Announced T20I Retirement

Former captain of New Zealand's men's cricket team, **Kane Stuart Williamson** announced his retirement from T-20 International (**T20I**) cricket format with immediate effect.

- However, Williamson will continue to play Test and One Day International (ODI) cricket for New Zealand.
- **Record:** New Zealand's 2nd highest run-scorer
- **Total Scores in T20Is:** 2575 runs, with an average of 33.44
- **Kane Career's Highest Score:** 95

About Kane Williamson:

Debut in T20I: Williamson, who debuted in T20I in 2011, represented New Zealand cricket team in **93** T20I matches.

Lead New Zealand's T20 Team: Over the decade long career in T20I, Kane captained New Zealand on **75** occasions. Under his captainship, New Zealand reached the semi-final of the T20 World Cups in 2016 and 2022, and even reached the final in 2021 edition.

New Zealand's 2nd Highest Run-scorer in T20I: Williamson retires as the 2nd highest run-scorer for New Zealand in men's T-20I with **2575 runs** at an average of **33.44**, including 18 half-centuries (50s) and has a highest score of 95.

Adviser for IPL's LSG: In October 2025, he was appointed the strategic adviser for the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) for 2026 season.

Tournament History: Kane Williamson's innings of 85 runs in the 2021 T20 World Cup final against Australia stands as the highest individual score by a captain in any edition of the Men's T20 World Cup.

Overview of Asian Youth Games 2025 held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

The **3rd** edition of the Asian Youth Games (**AYG**) **2025**, organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (**OCA**), was held in **Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain**, from **22 to 31 October 2025**, marking Bahrain's first time hosting an OCA event.

- The event served as the Asian qualification tournament for the 2026 Summer Youth Olympics Games (YoG) in Dakar, Senegal, scheduled from 31 October to 14 November 2026.

About Asian Youth Games 2025:

Participating Nations: 45 National Olympic Committees (NOCs)

Sports Disciplines: 28 sports, including 3x3 basketball, athletics, badminton, beach volleyball, beach wrestling, boxing, among others.

Chef de Mission: London 2012 Olympic bronze medallist wrestler **Yogeshwar Dutt** served as the Chef de Mission for the Indian contingent.

Total Medals at Stake: 1,677 (505 gold, 503 silver, 669 bronze)

Top of the Medal Tally: The People's Republic of China topped the standings at the 3rd Asian Youth Games 2025, winning 63 gold, 49 silver, and 35 bronze medals, for a total of **147**.

India's Medal Tally: India finished the 3rd Asian Youth Games 2025 with a total of **48 medals**, comprising 13 gold, 18 silver, and 17 bronze.

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates Hockey India Centenary Celebrations in New Delhi

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), inaugurated the centenary celebrations of Indian Hockey at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi. The event commemorated 100 years of Indian hockey, marking its first international appearance in 1925.

- The event, organized by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Hockey India, marked the beginning of a year-long centenary celebration of Indian Hockey, held under the theme **“100 Years of Indian Hockey: India ka Game”**.

Hockey India Centenary Celebration:

Exhibition Match: As part of the celebrations, a special exhibition match was played between the Sports Ministry XI led by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and the Hockey India XI captained by Dr. Dilip Tirkey, which ended with a 3-1 victory for the Sports Ministry team.

Sheetal Devi Becomes First Indian Para Archer in Able-Bodied National Team

18-year-old para-archer **Sheetal Devi**, from the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), became the **first Indian para-athlete** selected for an **able-bodied national archery team** at an event held from 3-6 November 2025, at the National Centre of Excellence, Sonipat (Haryana).

- She will represent India in the compound women's team category at the **Asia Cup Archery 2025 (Stage 3)**, scheduled from December 10–15, 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

About Selection Trials:

Conducted by: Sports Authority of India (SAI)

Participants: Over 60 able-bodied compound women archers

Top 3 Archers Selected:

- 1st – Tejal Rajendra Salve (Maharashtra)
- 2nd – Vaidehi Hirachandra Jadhav (Maharashtra)
- 3rd – Sheetal Devi (J&K)

Result: Sheetal Devi secured third place in the women's compound archery category with a total qualification score of 703 points, comprising 352 and 351 in the two rounds.

About Sheetal Devi:

Significance: Sheetal Devi is the first Indian female armless world champion in para archery and the youngest Indian Paralympic medallist at the age of 17.

Condition & Training: Born with phocomelia, She shoots using her legs and shoulders and trained at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex, Katra (J&K), before continuing under coach Gaurav Sharma in Patiala.

Major Achievements:

2023:

- 2 Gold medals – Asian Para Games, Hangzhou, China
- 1 Silver medal – World Archery Championships, Berlin, Germany

2025 Khelo India University Games: Official Logo and Mascots Unveiled

Sports Authority of India (SAI), in collaboration with the Rajasthan State Sports Council and the Government of Rajasthan unveiled the **Logo, Mascot, Torch, and Jersey** for the 5th Edition of Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2025 at Amer Fort in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Overview: The games are scheduled from 24 November to 5 December 2025, and are expected to bring together around 7,500 athletes from around 200 universities across India, competing in 24 sports disciplines.

- Games Canoeing, Kayaking, Cycling, and Beach Volleyball are newly added in KIUG 2025 .

Host Cities: It includes seven cities in Rajasthan such as Jaipur, Ajmer, Bharatpur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, and Bikaner, marking the first time Rajasthan hosting national-level university sports event.

Logo: The logo features

- **Hawa Mahal**, symbolizing Jaipur's royal heritage and grace,
- **Ranthambore Fort**, representing strength, strength, and tradition
- **Sand dunes**, reflecting Rajasthan's desert landscape
- **Windmills**, symbolizing modernity, sustainability, and energy
- **Pink color palette**, a tribute to Jaipur, the "Pink City".

Mascots: The mascots for KIUG 2025 are "**Khamma**" and "**Ghani**", which embody Rajasthan's spirit and culture.

- Khamma, inspired by "Camel", the state animal of Rajasthan, symbolizes endurance, strength, and agility.
- Ghani, draws from the local greeting "Khamma Ghani", representing hospitality and warmth.

Overview of World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 held in Noida, UP

The World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 was held at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP), from 16th to 20th November 2025.

- The five-day event served as the season finale of the 2025 World Boxing Cup series, organised by **World Boxing (WB)** in partnership with the Boxing Federation of India (**BFI**).

About 2025 World Boxing Cup:

Stages: The first edition of World Boxing Cup 2025 was held in three stages:

- **First stage:** Took place from 31 March to 5 April in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil
- **Second stage:** Held from 30 June to 7 July in Astana, Kazakhstan
- **Finals:** Conducted from 16 to 20 November in UP, India.

India Won Nine Gold Medals at World Boxing Cup Finals 2025

India emerged as the top nation with a record **20-medals**, **9** gold, **6** silver and **5** bronze in the finals with all 20 participating Indian boxers achieving a podium finish.

Women Gold Medal Winners: Minakshi Hooda – Women's 48 kilogram (kg), Nikhat Zareen – Women's 51 kg, Preeti Pawar – Women's 54 kg, Jaismine Lamboria – Women's 57 kg, Parveen Hooda – Women's 60 kg, Arundhati Choudhary – Women's 70 kg, and Nupur Sheoran – Women's 80+ kg

Men Gold Medal Winners: Sachin Siwach – Men's 60 kg and Hitesh Gulia – Men's 70 kg

About World Boxing (WB):

President – Gennady Golovkin

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland

Established – 13 April 2023

India Won Inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup

India's women's blind cricket team scripted history by winning the inaugural Blind Women's Twenty20 (T20) World Cup final at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo, Sri Lanka by defeating Nepal by 7 wickets, completing the tournament undefeated and establishing itself as a global leader in visually impaired women's cricket.

- The World cup matches was held from November 11 – 23, 2025.

About Inaugural Blind Women's Twenty20 (T20) World Cup:

Venues: Matches were held in Delhi, Bengaluru (Karnataka), and Colombo (Sri Lanka)

Team Overview: India's squad of 16 players from nine states from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Andhra Pradesh (AP), Odisha, Delhi, Assam, and Bihar, led by captain Deepika TC of Karnataka and vice-captain Ganga Kadamb of Maharashtra, mostly from rural areas, overcame social and logistical challenges to play blind cricket.

Match Summary: Nepal scored 114/5 in 20 overs, and India chased it in 12.1 overs, losing 3 wickets.

Blind Cricket Tournament Structure:

Format: Six teams played a round-robin league followed by knockouts. **Teams:** India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, and USA.

Players: 11 per team.

Ball: White plastic ball with metal bearings for sound.

Max Verstappen Won Las Vegas Grand Prix 2025

Dutch-Belgian race car driver **Max Verstappen**, representing Red Bull Racing, won the **Las Vegas Grand Prix (GP) 2025** or Formula 1 Heineken Las Vegas GP 2025 held in Las Vegas, the United States of America (USA). This was his 125th podium in 231 career races.

- He extended his podium streak to eight with his 69th career victory, securing a record eighth win in the USA and his second Las Vegas triumph in three years.

Race Highlights:

Championship Round: It was the 22nd race of the 2025 F1 World Championship and the third edition of the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

Lead Change: Starting from second, Max Verstappen capitalized on Lando Norris's Turn 1 error to take the lead immediately.

FIA Disqualification: McLaren drivers Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri were disqualified after the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)'s post-race inspection revealed that the skid-plank thickness on their cars fell below the minimum required limit.

Revised Standings: Following disqualifications and penalty adjustments, Max Verstappen finished first, **George Russell** second, and **Kimi Antonelli** promoted from fifth to third.

Top 3 Winners of Las Vegas Grand Prix 2025:

Rank	Name of the Driver	Team	Country Representation	Points
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	Netherlands	25
2	George Russell	Mercedes	United Kingdom (UK)	18
3	Kimi Antonelli	Mercedes	Italy	15

Top 3 – Formula One (F1) Drivers' Championship:

Rank	Driver	Team	Points

1	Lando Norris	McLaren	390
2	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	366
3	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	366

India Won 2nd edition of Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025

The Indian Women's Kabaddi Team clinched the 2nd edition of Women's Kabaddi World Cup title by defeating Chinese Taipei 35–28 in the final held at Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- India secured its second consecutive Women's Kabaddi World Cup title in 2025, having originally won the inaugural championship held in Patna, Bihar, in 2012.
- **Most Valuable Player:** Sanju Devi (India)

About 2025 Women's Kabaddi World Cup:

Participation: Eleven countries competed in the tournament—India, Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Germany, Iran, Kenya, Nepal, Poland, Thailand, Uganda, and Zanzibar—highlighting the global growth of women's kabaddi.

Tournament Performance: India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, winning all group matches and defeating Iran 33–21 in the semi-final to reach the final.

Key Players: Captain Ritu Negi provided exceptional leadership, Vice-Captain Pushpa Rana excelled in raiding and defense, and Champa Thakur, Bhawna Thakur, and Sakshi Sharma added depth with strong performances in both roles.

Most Valuable Player: Sanju Devi (India) was named Most Valuable Player.

Best Raider: I Min Lin (Chinese Taipei) received the best raider award.

Best Defender: M Srity Akter (Bangladesh) was recognized as the best defender.

Overview of Australian Open 2025 Badminton held in Sydney, Australia

The Australian Open (AO) 2025 Badminton, officially titled the Sathio Group Australian Open 2025, is a Badminton World Federation (BWF) Super 500 tournament, held at the State Sports Centre in Sydney, Australia, from 18 to 23 November 2025.

- Indian badminton player **Lakshya Sen** (world Rank 11) clinched the men's **singles title** at the Australian Open 2025 by defeating **Japan's Yushi Tanaka** 21-15, 21-11, marking his first title of the 2025 season and the sixth BWF World Tour crown of his career.
- He became the second Indian to win a BWF World Tour title in 2025 after Ayush Shetty at the US (United States of America) Open Super 300 in June 2025.

About Australian Open Badminton:

Background: The Australian Open is an international badminton tournament in Australia, upgraded to Grand Prix Gold in 2011 and part of the Super Series between 2014 and 2017.

Classification: From 2018 to 2022, the tournament was categorized as a Super 300 event on the BWF World Tour and since 2023, it has been elevated to Super 500 status.

Categories: It features five disciplines: men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles.

Total Prize Money: The Australian Open 2025 had a total prize money pool of **USD 4,75,000**.

- Distribution:** Of this amount, **USD 35,625** was awarded to the men's and women's singles winners, while **USD 37,525** each was allocated to the men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles champions.

Australian Open 2025 Badminton Winners:

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Lakdhya Sen (India)	Yushi Tanaka (Japan)
Women's Singles	An Se Young (Korea)	Putri Kusuma Wardani (Indonesia)

Italy Defeats Spain to Win Fourth Davis Cup Title in Bologna

Italy's men's tennis team won its fourth Davis Cup 2025 title after defeating Spain 2-0 in the Davis Cup 2025 Final held in Bologna, Italy, becoming the second nation after the United States of America (USA) to claim three consecutive titles in the premier men's international team tennis event, with previous victories in 1976, 2023, and 2024.

- The Davis Cup is organized and overseen by the International Tennis Federation (**ITF**).

Highlights of Davis Cup 2025:

First Singles: Matteo Berrettini (Italy) defeated Pablo Carreno Busta (Spain) 6-3, 6-4, giving Italy a 1-0 lead.

Second Singles: Flavio Cobolli (Italy) defeated Jaume Munar (Spain) 1-6, 7-6(5), 7-5, securing the championship.

Rankings: Italy remains at the top of the Davis Cup Nations Rankings 2025, with Germany and Spain occupying second and third places, respectively.

CGF Approves to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) General Assembly approved a proposal to host

the 2030 Commonwealth Games in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat, defeating **Abuja** (Nigeria) in the bid in Glasgow, Scotland.

- This marks the **second time**, earlier, India hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games in **New Delhi**, Delhi.
- The 2030 edition marks the 100th year of the Commonwealth games, first held in Hamilton, Canada in 1930.

Exam Hints:

- **What?** India to host 2030 Commonwealth Games
- **Where?** In Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
- **Approval:** CGF General Assembly
- **Previous Hosting:** In New Delhi (Delhi) in 2010
- **First Host:** Hamilton, Canada in 1930
- **Significance:** 100 years of Commonwealth games

Indian Representation: It includes Kunal K, Joint Secretary (Sports); PT Usha, President, Indian Olympic Association (IOA); Raghuram Iyer, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), IOA; and Harsh Sangavi, Sports Minister, Gujarat.

Games Format and Sports Programme: This will feature an expanded lineup of 15–17 sports, compared to the 10-sport format of Glasgow, Scotland 2026 common wealth games.

- The confirmed sports include athletics, swimming, table tennis, bowls, weightlifting (with Para events), artistic gymnastics, netball, and boxing. Additionally, several disciplines are under review for inclusion, such as archery, badminton, 3x3 basketball, beach volleyball, cricket T20, cycling, diving, hockey, judo, rhythmic gymnastics, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, and triathlon. The final sports programme will be announced next year.

Commonwealth Games: It is an international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations, a group of 56 countries, which were formerly part of the British Empire. The games are held once every four years.

OBITUARY

World's Oldest Living Gold Medalist Charles Coste dies at 101

French cycling legend and 1948 Olympic gold medalist **Charles Coste** passed away at the age of **101**. He was born on February 8, 1924, in Ollioules, southern France.

- He was the **world's oldest living Olympic gold medalist**, following the death of Hungarian gymnast Ágnes Keleti in January 2024.
- **Honor:** Torch Bearer of 2024 Paris Olympics

About Charles Coste:

Career: He began cycling at a young age, quickly emerging as one of France's top prospects, and was associated with the famed Vélo Club de Levallois, a leading centre for French cycling talent.

Achievements and Victories: In **1947**, he won the **French national title** in the individual pursuit.

- He won the **gold medal** in the team pursuit track-cycling event at the **1948 Summer Olympics** in London (the United Kingdom, UK), alongside teammates Pierre Adam, Serge Blusson and Fernand Decanali.
- In 1949, he won the prestigious 140 km Grand Prix des Nations, defeating cycling legend Fausto Coppi.

Retirement: Coste retired from professional cycling in **1959**, leaving behind a record of consistency, skill, and leadership that inspired generations of riders.

Role in 2024 Paris Olympics: In July 2024, at age 100, he served as a torchbearer during the Paris Olympics opening ceremony, passing the flame to fellow French champions.

Hinduja Group Chairman Gopichand Parmanand Hinduja Passed Away

Indian-origin British billionaire **Gopichand Parmanand Hinduja**, Chairman of the Hinduja Group, passed away in London, United Kingdom (UK) at the age of 85. He was born in 1940 in Karachi, British India (now in Pakistan).

- **Wealth & Recognition:** Topped The Sunday Times Rich List 2025 with GBP 35.3 billion

About Gopichand Parmanand Hinduja:

Personal Legacy: Popularly known as 'GP', he was a visionary industrialist who significantly expanded the global presence of Indian business through strategic leadership and innovation.

Business Journey: Joined the family business in 1959 in Mumbai, Maharashtra and was instrumental in transforming it from a trading firm into a global conglomerate.

- He led the acquisition of Gulf Oil in 1984 and the purchase of Ashok Leyland in 1987, marking the first major Non-Resident Indian (NRI) investment in India.

Business Expansion: Under his leadership, the Group diversified into 11 sectors including automotive, banking and finance, information technology, real estate, power, and media.

Leadership: Assumed the role of Group Chairman in May 2023 following his elder brother Srichand Hinduja's demise.

Wealth and Recognition: In May 2025, the Hinduja family, led by Gopichand Hinduja, topped The Sunday Times Rich List 2025, for 4th successive year with a net worth of British Pound Sterling (GBP) 35.3 billion (approximately Rs 2,53,000 crore).

Academic Honours: He received an Honorary Doctor of Law from the University of Westminster(UK) and an Honorary Doctorate of Economics from Richmond College, London(UK).

Padma Bhushan Awardee Vaidyeswaram Rajaraman, Pioneer of India's Science and Computer Education Passed Away

Professor **Vaidyeswaran Rajaraman**, widely regarded as the “**Pitamaha**” of Computer Science education in India, passed away at the age of 92 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was born on 8 September 1933 in Erode, Tamil Nadu(TN).

- In 1998, Prof. Rajaraman was conferred with the **Padma Bhushan**, India's third-highest civilian award, in the field of science and technology.
- **Research & Writing:** 70+ research papers, authored History of Computing in India (1955–2010)
- **Awards:** Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (1976), Padma Bhushan (1998)
- **Fellowships:** INSA, IASc, INAE, CSI

About Prof. Vaidyeswaran Rajaraman:

Academic Milestone: He joined the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur(Uttar Pradesh, UP), where in 1965, he was instrumental in establishing India's first formal academic programme in Computer Science(CS).

- In 1987, he proposed the creation of the Master of Computer Applications (MCA) programme to bridge the IT(Information Technology) talent gap in India.
- Served as IBM (International Business Machines) Professor of Information Technology at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru(Karnataka), from 1994 to 2001.

Supercomputing Pioneer: From 1982 to 1994, he served as Chairman of the Supercomputer Education and Research Centre (SERC) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru where he spearheaded the development of indigenous supercomputing and parallel computing capabilities to support advanced research and national projects.

Legacy in Education: Rajaraman authored over 20 textbooks on computer science, which continue to be used in universities across India.

- Published 70+ papers and authored the acclaimed History of Computing in India (1955–2010).

Renowned Environmentalist & Padma Shree Awardee Saalumarada Thimmakka Passed Away

Renowned Environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee **Saalumarada Thimmakka**, famously known as “**tree woman of India**”, passed away at the age of **114** in Bengaluru, Karnataka. She was born on June 30, 1911 in Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru district in Karnataka.

- In **2019**, she was honoured with **Padma Shri**, India’s 4th highest civilian honor, in the field of Social Work.

About Saalumarada Thimmakka:

Legacy: She is renowned for her lifelong dedication to tree conservation. She was fondly known as “**Vriksha Mata**” and the “**Mother of Trees**.”

Legendary Bollywood Actor & Padma Bhushan Awardee Dharmendra Passed Away

Renowned Bollywood actor Dharmendra Kewal Krishan Deol, popularly known as **Dharmendra**, passed away at the age of 89 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on 8 December 1935, in Nasrali, Punjab.

- In 2012, he was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan**, India’s third-highest civilian award, in recognition of his significant contributions to the Art.

- **Title:** “**He-Man of Bollywood**”
- **Awards:** Padma Bhushan (2012), Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award (1997), DPIFF Award (2021)

About Dharam Singh Deol:

Overview: He had an illustrious career, spanned over six decades and he acted in over 300 films in multiple languages, primarily in Hindi cinema.

Career: In **1960**, he made his debut in **Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere**, a Hindi film. He was first critically acclaimed for his performance in **Bandini** (1963).

- He had a breakthrough via **Phool Aur Patthar** (1966), which established him as a romantic and action hero.
- His prominent works include **Sholay** (1975), in which he played the role “**Veeru**”, **Chupke Chupke** (1975), **Dharam Veer** (1977).
- Later in his career, between 1990s and 2010s, he played supporting and character roles in films such as **Tell Me O Kkhuda** (2011), **Yamla Pagla Deewana Series** (2011-2013).
- Besides acting, he was involved in film production and served as a Member of Parliament(MP) (Lok Sabha) representing the Rajya Sabha (from 2004 to 2009)

Awards: In **1997**, he was honoured with the **Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award** for his outstanding contribution to Indian Cinema, Lifetime Achievement Award at Annual Kalakar Awards in 1999.

DAYS

National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) 2025 – October 31

National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed on 31 October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the “Iron Man of India.”

- 31 October 2025 marks the **150th** birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Background:

Declaration: In **2014**, the Government of India (GoI) led by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi declared October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, to be observed as National Unity Day to honor his efforts in uniting India.

First Observation: The first National Unity Day was observed on **31 October 2014**.

2025 Events:

Event: The annual National Unity Day celebration, coordinated by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P), was held at Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Gujarat.

Lead: On 31 October 2025, to mark the 150th Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s birth anniversary or National Unity Day, **PM Narendra Modi** led a major ‘**Unity Parade**’ at Statue of Unity, Kevadia, Gujarat. He administered the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge.

National Legal Services Day 2025 – November 9

National Legal Services Day (NLSD) is annually observed across India on **9th November** to promote legal awareness and equitable access to justice for all, especially the marginalized, reinforcing the government’s commitment to “Access to Justice for All.”

- The day commemorates the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, on 9th November 1995.
- 10th November 2025 marks the **31st** edition of NLSD.

Background:

Proposed by: The idea to celebrate NLSD annually was first proposed by **Dr. Justice A.S. Anand**, the then Executive Chairman of NALSA, during the first Annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held on 12th September 1998 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.

First Observation: The first NLSD was observed on **9th November 1995**.

About National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

Patron -in -Chief- Justice B.R Gavai -Chief Justice of India (CJI)

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established- 1995

National Education Day 2025 – November 11

National Education Day (NED) is observed every year on **11 November** across India to

commemorate the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, the first Education Minister of independent India.

- 11 November 2025, commemorates the **137th** birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Background:

Declaration: In **2008**, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), now known as the Ministry of Education (MoE), declared 11 November, the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, as NED.

First Observation: The first NED was observed on 11 November 2008.

Focus: The 2025 observance emphasized inclusive and equitable education, digital transformation in classrooms, and the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

About Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

Birth: Born on 11 November 1888 in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, he later settled in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

Profile: He was a renowned freedom fighter, Islamic scholar, journalist, and reformer.

Journalism: He began publishing the Urdu weekly '**Al-Hilal**' in 1912 to advocate for nationalism and social reform.

President of INC: He was elected President of the Indian National Congress (INC) twice in the year **1923** and again in the year **1940**, playing a crucial role during India's struggle for independence.

Minister of Education: After Independence, he became the **first Minister of Education (1947–1958)** under the then Prime Minister (PM) Jawaharlal Nehru.

World Diabetes Day 2025 – November 14

The United Nations (UN) commemorates World Diabetes Day (**WDD**) every year on **14 November** to raise global awareness about the impact of diabetes, the importance of prevention, early diagnosis, effective treatment, and equitable access to care.

- **2025 Theme:** "Diabetes across life stages"

Background:

Origin: WDD was established in **1991** by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to address the growing health threat posed by diabetes.

Observation: Since 1991, WDD has been observed globally on 14 November by the IDF.

UN Recognition: On 20 December **2006**, the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) adopted resolution A/RES/61/225, designating 14 November as an official UN Day to be observed annually starting in 2007.

First UN WDD: The first UN-recognized World Diabetes Day was observed on **14 November 2007**.

Logo: The blue circle, introduced by IDF in 2006 as the universal symbol of diabetes, represents global unity in fighting the disease and was incorporated into IDF's hummingbird logo in 2023.

Significance of Date: 14 November marks the birth anniversary of **Sir Frederick Grant Banting**, the Canadian scientist who co-discovered insulin in 1922.

- He, along with John James Rickard Macleod, received the **1923 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** for the discovery of insulin.

Children's Day or Bal Divas 2025- November 14

Children's Day (Bal Divas) is celebrated every year on 14 November in India to honor the birth anniversary of **Jawaharlal Nehru**, India's first Prime Minister(PM), highlighting his love for children and the importance of nurturing the younger generation.

- 14 November 2025 marks the **136th** birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Theme:

2025 Theme: “For Every Child, Every Right”

Focus: Reinforces India's commitment to providing every child with access to education, healthcare, safety, and opportunities for holistic development.

Background:

Universal Children's Day: Originally, India aligned its Children's Day celebrations with the United Nations(UN)' Universal Children's Day on **20 November**.

After Nehru's Demise: After Jawaharlal Nehru passed away in **1964**, the Indian Parliament passed a resolution to observe his birthday as Children's Day in honor of his affection for children.

- Since then, Children's Day has been celebrated annually on November 14 to mark his birth anniversary.

National Press Day 2025 – November 16

National Press Day (**NPD**) is observed every year across India on **16 November** to commemorate the day the Press Council of India (PCI) began functioning, safeguarding journalistic standards and protecting press freedom.

- **2025 Theme:** “Safeguarding Press Credibility amidst Rising Misinformation”

Background:

Commission: The 1st Press Commission in 1954 recommended creating a statutory authority composed of industry-linked members to uphold professional ethics in journalism.

Establishment: The Press Council of India was established on 4 July 1966 under the Press Council Act, 1965.

- The Press Council of India began functioning as a watchdog body on 16 November 1966.
- The Press Council of India was re-established in 1979 as a statutory, quasi-judicial, autonomous authority under the Press Council Act, 1978.

2025 Event:

On 16th November 2025, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), and Minister of State (MoS) Dr L. Murugan, MIB, attended the National

Press Day 2025 celebrations held at the National Media Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

World Toilet Day 2025 – November 19

The United Nations (UN's) **World Toilet Day**(WTD) is annually observed across the world on **19 November** to raise awareness about sanitation, public health, and dignity, and to promote access to safe toilets for all.

•**2025 Theme:** “ Sanitation in a changing world”

Background:

Origin: In 2001, the World Toilet Organisation (WTO) declared November 19 as WTD.

•The WTO was founded by Jack Sim, a philanthropist from Singapore, on November 19, 2001.

Recognition: On July 24, **2013**, the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) adopted resolution A/RES/67/291, officially declaring November 19 of every year as World Toilet Day.

First UN Observance: The first UN-recognized World Toilet Day was observed on **November 19, 2013**.

2025 Events:

Summit: On November 19 2025, Sulabh International and the WTO launched a 3-day **World Toilet Summit 2025** in New Delhi, Delhi.

National Integration Day 2025 – November 19

National Integration Day (Quami Ekta Diwas) is observed every year across India on **November 19** to mark the birth anniversary of **Indira Gandhi**, India's first woman Prime Minister(PM).

•November 19, 2025 marks the **108th** birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi.

•The day marks the beginning of **National Integration Week** (Qaumi Ekta Week), celebrated every year from November 19 to 25.

Background:

Origin: National Integration Day was instituted in **1985** to honour Indira Gandhi's role in promoting unity among India's diverse cultures and regions.

About Indira Gandhi:

Birth: Indira Gandhi, daughter of India's firstPM Jawaharlal Nehru, was born on November 19, 1917, in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), Uttar Pradesh(UP).

Tenure: She served as India's 3rd PM from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984.

Legacy: She was India's second-longest-serving PM after Nehru and was popularly known as the 'Iron Lady of India'.

Honours: Indira Gandhi received the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award in 1971 and the Lenin Peace Prize in 1984.

Authorship: She authored the book '**My Truth**', revealing unexplored aspects of her life.

National Constitution Day ‘Samvidhan Diwas’ 2025 – November 26

National Constitution Day also known as ‘Samvidhan Diwas’ is observed annually across India on **26th November** to commemorate the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly of India in 1949.

•**26th November 2025** marks the **76th** anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India.

•**2025 Theme:** “Humara Samvidhan, Humara Swabhimaan” (Our Constitution–Our Pride).

Background:

Declaration: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) announced in 2015 that 26th November would be observed annually as Constitution Day to promote constitutional values among citizens.

Inception: The first Constitution Day was officially observed on 26th November 2015.

2025 Event:

Event: On 26th November 2025, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, along with Vice-President Chandrapuram Ponnusami (C. P.) Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi commemorated National Constitution Day 2025 at the Central Hall of Parliament House, Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi, Delhi.

National Milk Day 2025 – November 26

National Milk Day is observed every year on 26 November across India to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, widely known as the “Father of the White Revolution in India” and “Milkman of India”.

Background:

Origin: National Milk Day was instituted in **2014** through a joint initiative of the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and 22 State-Level Milk Federations.

First Observance: The first National Milk Day was celebrated on **26 November 2014**.

Nodal Ministry: The annual observance is coordinated by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying(DoAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D).

2025 Event :

Celebration: The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (**DAHD**), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying(MoFAH&D), celebrated National Milk Day 2025 on 26 November 2025 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi.