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October 2026

NATIONAL

ITMS PROJECT APPROVED

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the implementation of the **Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) Project** by the **Delhi Police** at an estimated cost of **₹1,789.52 crore**.

The project will cover **42 identified traffic corridors** and will be executed in **3 phases** over **24 months**, followed by **5 years of operation and maintenance**.

PRESIDENT AMENDS INTER-STATE COUNCIL ORDER

President Droupadi Murmu has amended the **Inter-State Council (Amendment) Order, 2026**, amending the **Inter-State Council Order, 1990**. The amendment, which came into force immediately upon publication, introduces special conditions for the participation of Governors and Lieutenant Governors in Inter-State Council meetings.

Enacted under **Article 263 of the Constitution of India**, the updated guidelines state that the **Governor of a State** will be invited to council meetings when a proclamation by the President under **Article 356** is in force in that State. For the **National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi**, the **Lt Governor** will be invited when an order by the President under **Article 239AB** is in force.

INDIA-ITALY TOURISM MEETING

The **2nd India-Italy Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on tourism** was held in New Delhi. During the meeting, both countries agreed to **strengthen bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector**.

Both nations also agreed to establish **focused technical groups** and **designated points of contact** to further advance bilateral tourism cooperation.

SEMICON INDIA 2026

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **5th edition** of **SEMICON India 2026** at the Yashobhoomi India International Convention & Expo Centre in **New Delhi**, held under the theme "**Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem**".

The event is organised by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** in partnership with **Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI)** and concluded with the exchange of **56 MoUs**.

The central government has secured investment commitments of around **₹1 lakh crore** under **Semicon 2.0**. It was also announced that the "**Odisha Silicon Valley**" will be established at **Naraj in Cuttack, Odisha**.

FOREST MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP LAUNCHED

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav has launched a workshop on the '**Capacity Enhancement for Effective Forest Management Project**' in New Delhi, in collaboration with the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** to strengthen the capacity of **frontline forest personnel**.

The **7-year project** will be implemented from **FY26 to FY32** across all states in India. The project entails a total financial outlay of **₹537.10 crore**, consisting of **₹440.42 crore funded by JICA** and **₹96.68 crore contributed by the central government**.

LNG POWERED TRAIN FLAGGED OFF

Union Minister Amit Shah has flagged off **India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)-powered train** from the **Sabarmati Railway Station** in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

During the event, he also inaugurated various railway development projects worth **₹1,472 crore** and the **Wide Gauge, Alternating Current, Goods (WAG-12) Maintenance Shed** for railway locomotive engines, built at a cost of **₹700 crore**.

NEW DIGITAL INITIATIVES

The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has unveiled **5 new digital identity initiatives** to improve service accessibility, secure authentication, and governance during the **Aadhaar Samvaad stakeholders conference** held in **Kolkata**, marking the **17th Aadhaar Day**.

These initiatives include **Face Authentication for the electronic Public Distribution System (ePDS)**, developed in collaboration with the **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)** and the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** as a contactless verification tool.

The newly introduced initiatives also comprise the **SWIK Portal 2.0**, the **Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework**, and a **New Token Management System**. Additionally, the **revamped website and Career Portal of UIDAI** was launched, featuring journey-based navigation powered by **BHASHINI** for **multilingual support**.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):

CEO – Saurabh Vijay

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2016

MILESTONE FOR AB PM-JAY

The **Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**, **launched in 2018** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to achieve **universal health coverage**, has recorded over **60 crore beneficiaries**.

It is the **world's largest government-funded public health insurance and assurance scheme**, providing coverage of up to **₹5 lakh per family annually** for **secondary and tertiary care hospitalization**.

The scheme is implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with a funding ratio of **60:40** between the centre and states, as well as for UTs with a legislature. The funding ratio is **90:10** for the centre and **North-Eastern states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir**, while UTs without a legislature receive **100% central funding**.

GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR PHASE-III APPROVED

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) scheme** to **strengthen the Indian Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS)**. The scheme aims to **evacuate up to 135 Gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy across the country**.

It also provides for the deployment of **50 Gigawatt-hour (GWh)** of **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** at the Renewable Energy generator end, with a target completion by FY33. The total project outlay is **₹1.8 lakh crore** (comprising **₹1.3 lakh crore for InSTS development** and **₹50,000 crore for BESS deployment**), involving a Central Financial Support of ₹54,082 crore.

KURUKSHETRA ITI APPROVED

The **National Steering Committee (NSC)** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has approved a **Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)** worth **₹320 crore** for the '**Kurukshetra ITI Cluster**' in **Haryana**.

The approval is granted under the '**PM Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)**' Scheme. With this approval, the cumulative investment under the PM-SETU scheme has reached **₹2,491 crore** across **10 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) clusters**.

STEEL INDUSTRY SAFETY COUNCIL

The **Ministry of Steel (MoS)** has announced the establishment of the Steel Industry Safety Council as an **apex-level body**. The council aims to **enhance safety standards, practices, and accident prevention protocols** across the domestic steel sector.

The SISC will be chaired by **Sandeep Poundrik**, the **Secretary of the MoS**.

INDIAN PORTS GET MEGA STATUS

The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** has designated four major and commercial facilities as the first "**mega ports**" of India under **Section 73 of the Indian Ports Act, 2025**.

The identified ports include the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust** in **Nhava Sheva**, **Paradip Port**, **Deendayal Port** in **Kandla**, and the **Mundra Port** operated by the **Adani Group**.

The "mega port" status is granted for a **5-year duration**, subject to periodic reviews, based on specific operational benchmarks. To qualify for this status, a **bulk port** must register an **annual cargo throughput** of at least **150 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)**, while a **container port** is required to handle a minimum of **7.5 Million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (MTEUs)**.

AI TRANSLATION TOOL FOR CAG

The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)**, in collaboration with the **Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**, has launched "**CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad**", an **AI-enabled document translation solution**.

The platform, developed by BHASHINI, is specifically designed to facilitate the **translation of official documents and audit-related reports** of the CAG.

LAUNCH OF GOBARDHAN SCHEME

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched **GOBARdhan**, a **Central Sector Scheme** for the development of the **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** sector. The Union Cabinet has approved the scheme with a total outlay of **₹23,731 crore** for a period of **10 years**, from **FY27 to FY36**.

The scheme aims to **increase the domestic production of CBG by nearly 10-fold** to **5 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per Day (MMSCMD)**. To support the implementation, he has also launched the **GOBARdhan Handbook** and the **Unified GOBARdhan Portal**.

AROGYA MANTHAN 2026

Union Minister **JP Nadda** has inaugurated "**Arogya Manthan 2026**" at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, to mark the **8th anniversary** of the **Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** and the **5th anniversary** of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.

Under the **AB PM-JAY**, **Andhra Pradesh** (large state), **Sikkim** (small state), and **Jammu & Kashmir** (Union Territory - UT) were recognized for the **highest card saturation** among Accredited Social Health Activists, Anganwadi Workers, and Anganwadi Helpers). **Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat** were awarded for **claim settlement efficiency** in inter-state portability.

In the **ABDM category**, **Bihar, Ladakh, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli** were the top performers in **model districts**. **Chandigarh, Assam, and Uttar Pradesh** were honored for the highest implementation of **ABDM-enabled Health Management Information Systems (HMIS)** in sub-centres.

STANDARD NAMES IN LADAKH

The central government, in collaboration with the **Union Territory of Ladakh**, has identified **28 geographical locations and features** for **name standardization** on the **official map** of the **Survey of India (SoI)**.

IIT MADRAS UNICORN FRONTIER FUND LAUNCHED

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** named '**IIT Madras Unicorn Frontier Fund-I**' during the **7th edition of 'IITMAA Sangam'** (the annual conference of the IIT Madras Alumni Association) in **Bengaluru**.

The fund is a joint initiative between the **IIT Madras and Unicorn India Ventures (UIV)**. The minister also released a book titled **"Cashless Nation: How UPI Changed Everything"**, authored by **Santanu Paul and B Sambamurthy**.

12 YEARS OF MAKE IN INDIA

The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, has marked the **12th anniversary** of the **'Make in India'** initiative.

Launched in **2014**, the scheme aims to position India as a **global hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation**. The initiative covers a total of **27 sectors**, which includes **15 manufacturing sectors** and **12 service sectors**.

COES FOR CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

The **Department of Higher Education** under the **Ministry of Education (MoE)** has sanctioned the establishment of **5 Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** for the study of **classical languages**.

The **CoE for Classical Assamese** will be located at **Tezpur University (Assam)**, while the **CoE for Classical Bengali** will be at **Visva-Bharati University (West Bengal)**. The **Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute** in Pune will host the **CoE for Classical Marathi**. The **Central University of Odisha** and the **Central University of Gujarat** have been designated for the **CoEs of Classical Pali and Classical Prakrit**, respectively.

PRAHAAR CONFERENCE

Union Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the '**PRAHAAR - Counter Terrorism (CT) Policy and Strategy**' Conference in **New Delhi**. During the event, he launched an **Extradition Portal** to **expedite the return of fugitives**.

The 'Prahaar' framework is implemented through a **whole-of-society approach** and is based on a **seven-pillar strategy**: **Prevention, Response, Aggregating Internal Capacities, Human Rights, Attenuating Conditions for Terrorism, Aligning International Efforts, and Recovery and Resilience**.

TRAI LAUNCHES DCR PLATFORM

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has launched the **Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform**, which serves as an **integrated system for viewing and comparing the connectivity ratings** of various properties.

The platform enables end-to-end rating as per the **"Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024"** (amended in **May 2026**) and the **"Rating Manual"** published in **June 2026**. **TRAI** has also introduced a **mobile application** to facilitate the **testing and assessment of digital connectivity** at specific properties.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated an international conference titled "**The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics**" at **Vigyan Bhawan** in **New Delhi**.

The event, organised by the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, witnessed global participation, including **judges and judicial representatives from 17 countries**.

12 YEARS OF DDU-GKY

The **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)** has completed **12 years** of implementation. The scheme, **launched in 2014**, is a part of the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** under the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

The scheme targets **rural youth** aged between **15 and 35 years**. It is to be noted that DDU-GKY has successfully trained over **18.47 lakh candidates** since its inception.

SEVA FIRST INNOVATION CHALLENGE LAUNCHED

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has inaugurated the **Seva First Innovation Challenge (SFIC)** for the **South Zone** in **IISc Bengaluru**.

The initiative aims to **encourage youth to identify community-level problems and develop innovative, testable, and scalable solutions**.

VICTIM RIGHTS CENTRE

Justice Surya Kant, the **Chief Justice of India**, has inaugurated the **first Victim Rights Centre (VRC)** of India at the **Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BSLSA)** premises in **Patna, Bihar**. He also released a formal publication providing information about the newly established facility.

During the event, he flagged off **9 Multi-Utility Vehicles (MUVs)** and launched a **Transgender Helpline** under the **Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Access to Resources (SITARA) Scheme**.

NEW SITES ON UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST

The **Permanent Delegation of India to the UNESCO** has announced the inclusion of **5 new heritage sites** in the **Tentative List** of the World Heritage Convention (WHC). Four of these sites are located in **Madhya Pradesh**: the **Bagh Cave Paintings**, the **Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley**, the **Udaigiri Caves**, and the **Ginnorgarh Fort**.

A serial **transnational proposal between India and South Africa**, titled '**Sites of Satyagraha**', has also been included. This property consists of **9 components**, including 7 sites in India and 2 in South Africa (the **Pietermaritzburg Station and the Phoenix Settlement**).

It is to be noted that the total number of sites from India on the UNESCO Tentative List has increased to **78**, comprising **58 cultural, 17 natural, and 3 mixed** category sites.

GI TAG FOR MANDAR

The **Geographical Indications (GI) Registry** has granted the **GI tag** to '**Mandar**', a **traditional folk musical instrument** from **Jharkhand**.

LIVESTOCK INSURANCE PORTAL LAUNCHED

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh has launched the '**Livestock Insurance Portal**' (**Pashudhan Bima Portal**) in **New Delhi**.

The portal, developed under the **Livestock Insurance activity** of the **National Livestock Mission (NLM)**, provides a **unified digital interface** for stakeholders including **farmers, insurers, and implementing agencies**. To ensure comprehensive reach across diverse farming communities, the portal is accessible in **11 regional languages**.

INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2027

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has announced that **Kolkata** will host the **5th edition** of **India Energy Week (IEW)** in **January 2027**.

The event is scheduled to take place at the **New Town Convention Centre** under the theme "**Unlocking Innovation. Securing Energy. Shaping Tomorrow.**"

3D PRINTED HOUSING PROJECT

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has released the **first installment of ₹3,600 crore** for the construction of **3 lakh houses** in **Andhra Pradesh** under the **PM Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) 2.0**.

He also laid the foundation stone for the **first Three Dimensional (3D) concrete printing pilot housing project of India** at **Burripalem village** in **Guntur district** of **Andhra Pradesh**. It is to be noted that the technology uses **additive manufacturing** to build a residential unit in **10 days** through computer-controlled machinery and cement-based materials.

NOC TO AIR AYODHYA

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has granted a **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** to **Air Ayodhya**, a regional airline operated by **Megamax Aviation Pvt Ltd**.

The airline is authorized to operate under the **Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS - UDAN)** to **improve air connectivity in the underserved regions** of **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.

CU DENVER TO SET UP CAMPUS IN HYDERABAD

The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has issued a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** to the **University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver)** to establish a campus in **Hyderabad**.

With this, the university becomes the **first public American university** authorized to set up a **degree-granting location in India**.

NEW TRACK UNDER PRIP SCHEME

The **Department of Pharmaceuticals** under the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** has launched the '**New Discovery Track**' under the **Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma and MedTech (PRIP)** scheme.

The initiative provides financial assistance of up to **₹50 crore** per project to **startups and MSMEs** through the **PRIP portal**. To advance projects from **Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 1-3 to TRL 6**, participants must provide a mandatory **25% co-funding**.

It is to be noted that 41 projects were approved with a total funding of ₹1,600 crore during the initial call of the scheme. The **PRIP scheme** was launched in **2023** with a total outlay of **₹5,000 crore** to promote research and innovation in the pharmaceutical and medical technology sectors.

NATIONAL COASTAL MISSION 2.0

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav has launched the implementation guidelines for the '**National Coastal Mission**' (**NCM 2.0**), a **Central Sector Scheme** to enhance the **conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems of India**. The mission has been approved with a total budget of **₹767 crore** and will be implemented **until FY31**.

The mission will cover **9 coastal states** (**Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal**) and **4 Union Territories** including **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep**.

The mission framework is organized into **5 thematic categories**: **climate resilient blue economic growth, coastal vulnerability and risk reduction, climate change adaptation with mitigation co-benefits, capacity building and outreach, and committed liabilities and project management**.

JOSH TEAMS FOR TB ELIMINATION

Union Minister JP Nadda has launched the '**Joint Squad for Health' (JOSH) Teams** under the '**TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan**' at **Bharat Mandapam** in **New Delhi**. The initiative aims to **enhance youth-led community participation** to **eliminate Tuberculosis (TB)** before the **global target of 2030**.

In the first phase, **JOSH Teams** are deployed across **55 districts** in **11 States and Union Territories**. It is to be noted that India has recorded a **21% decline** in the incidence of TB, with **treatment coverage reaching 92%**.

NEW CAFE-III NORMS

The **Ministry of Power** has notified the "**Corporate Average Fuel Economy" (CAFE)-III norms** for passenger vehicles, to be implemented over **5 years** from **April 2027 to March 2032**. The regulations apply to **M1 category motor vehicles** (carrying 8 to 9 passengers including the driver, excluding commercial vehicles).

The **fuel-consumption benchmark** will be tightened from **3.996 litres (L) per 100 km** in 2027-28 to **3.3273 L per 100 km** by 2031-32, aiming for a **16.7% efficiency improvement**. The government has increased the **reference vehicle weight** for calculations from 1,082 kg to **1,229 kg**.

The framework introduces "**Carbon Neutrality Factors" (CNF)** to reduce the declared **Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) emissions** of manufacturers. A reduction of **8%** is provided for **E20 and higher ethanol-blended petrol vehicles** (including hybrids), and **22.3%** for **Flex-fuel ethanol vehicles**.

It is to be noted that a **5% reduction in CO_2 emissions** is allowed for **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles** or the notified **Compressed Biogas (CBG) blending percentage**, whichever is higher. The number of **efficiency technologies for fuel conservation credits** has been increased **from 4 to 12**.

PRAGATI-50 INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched the "**PRAGATI-50**" initiative in New Delhi, which aims to develop **50 cities** across **24 states** as **role model cities for sanitation**. The initiative is being implemented under the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U 2.0)**.

It is to be noted that a digital review mechanism named **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)** has been established on the **Swachhatam Portal** to ensure effective monitoring and oversight of the initiative.

PM-SETU COMPLETES ONE YEAR

The **PM Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)**, a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, has successfully completed its **first year of implementation**.

The initiative was launched in **2025**, with a total budgetary outlay of **₹60,000 crore**. A total of **850 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** have been identified under the scheme, which includes **172 Hub ITIs and 678 Spoke ITIs**.

FTA UTILISATION CELL ESTABLISHED

The **Department of Commerce (DoC)**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)**, has established a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Utilisation Cell** to assist **Indian entrepreneurs and businesses** in understanding and leveraging the benefits provided by trade agreements of India.

India has finalized FTAs with several partners, including the **European Free Trade Association, UAE, Australia, Mauritius, Oman, New Zealand, UK, and European Union**. These agreements provide domestic businesses with access to **32 countries**, facilitating largely **zero-tariff trade** opportunities across global markets.

PM INAUGURATES PROJECTS IN CHENNAI

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several development projects worth over **₹13,000 crore** in **Chennai**. The official ceremony was held at the **Kendriya Vidyalaya Ground on the IIT Madras campus**.

During the event, he inaugurated the **Poonamallee-Vadapalani elevated stretch** as part of the **Chennai Metro Phase II Expansion**. He also inaugurated **5 redeveloped railway stations** across the state under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme** to enhance rail connectivity and passenger amenities.

PM E-DRIVE SCHEME

The **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme**, implemented by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)**, has **completed two years**.

Launched in **2024** for an initial period of two years, the scheme has now been **extended** until **March 2028**. It is to be noted that **26.59 lakh Electric Vehicles (EVs)** have been sold under the scheme as of **June 2026**.

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA RECONSTITUTED

The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has **reconstituted** the **Press Council of India (PCI)** by nominating **13 journalists**. The PCI is a **statutory, autonomous, and quasi-judicial body** comprising 1 Chairperson and **28 other members**.

The 28 members include **13 working journalists** (6 editors and 7 others), **6 newspaper-owner representatives**, **5 Members of Parliament**, and **3 specialised-field representatives**. **Retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai** serves as the **Chairperson** of the PCI for a **3-year term**.

INDIAAI CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched the **MeitY-IndiaAI Centre of Excellence in AI**, known as the **Centre for AI in Keralam (CAIK)**, in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, under the **IndiaAI Mission**.

Digital University Kerala will serve as the **implementing agency** for the initiative, with **Innovation Incubator Advisory Pvt Ltd** acting as the **industry partner**. The centre has also announced its **first cohort** comprising **15 AI startups**.

NEW SCHEDULE FOR RURAL WORKS NOTIFIED

The **Ministry of Rural Development** has notified the **Schedule of Permissible Works** under the **Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025**. The Act **expands permissible rural works from 266 to 375**, reflecting a **41% increase** across **4 pillars** through **Gram Sabha-approved Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans**.

The expanded works are categorised into **Water Security** (**128 works; 34%**), **Core Rural Infrastructure** (**111 works; 30%**), **Livelihood-related Infrastructure** (**98 works; 26%**), and **Disaster Preparedness** (**38 works; 10%**). Additionally, **agriculture** accounts for **181 works** under the updated schedule.

PROJECTS IN LADAKH

PM Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated infrastructure projects worth **₹3,350 crore** in **Ladakh** across roads, aviation, and renewable energy sectors. It includes the **₹650-crore Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport terminal** in **Leh**.

The new terminal expands the **annual passenger-handling capacity** from **1 million to 3.5 million**. It is the **first airport terminal in India** to feature **geothermal heating** alongside **solar energy use** to suit the harsh climate. He also dedicated **40 newly constructed reservoirs** developed under **Project Amrit Him Sarovar**.

INDIA MOBILE CONGRESS

The **10th edition** of the **India Mobile Congress (IMC)**, the **largest digital technology forum in Asia**, has been held at the **Yashobhoomi India Convention & Expo Centre (IICC)** in **Dwarka, New Delhi**.

The event was organised by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)** under the theme "**Scale Without Boundaries**". During the conference, **PM Narendra Modi** stated that the cost of one gigabyte (GB) of mobile data has declined from **₹268 in 2014** to **₹8 in 2026**.

The event was structured around **4 key pillars**: **Srishti (Building the Future), Samvardhan (Fueling Growth), Sashakt (Expanding Opportunities), and Suraksha (Strengthening Trust)**, covering **9 major technology sectors**.

The IMC announced the launch of the **1st edition of "Viksit Tech 47 (VT47)"**, a **special platform for technology brands to compete in the global market**. The conference also featured the release of the inaugural edition of the **VT47 flagship report** titled "**Building India's Global Brands in Gadgets, Devices, Appliances and Connected Cards**".

NEW WEBSITES FOR SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS

Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the **redeveloped websites** of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T)** to **enhance the accessibility of scientific information and research opportunities for citizens**.

The updated portals support **22 languages** through the **BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India)** integration. Additionally, these websites comply with the **Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) 3.0** and the **Guidelines for Indian Government Websites and Apps (GIGW) 3.0**.

KAUMARACON 2026

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan has inaugurated the **third international conference** on **Kaumarabhritya** (Ayurvedic paediatrics) named **KAUMARACON-2026** at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** in **New Delhi**. The AIIA is an **autonomous institution** operating under the **Ministry of Ayush**.

The conference, coinciding with the institute foundation day, was held under the theme "**Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya**".

During the event, the Vice President inaugurated the **AYUSH Start-up Portal**, the **AIIA-iCAINE website**, and the **Ayurveda Digital Innovation and Venture Acceleration Facility (AyuDIVA)**, alongside launching the **Vamana App** and the **Panchakarma Assessment App**. An international MoU between **Maharishi International University (MIU)** in the **USA** and **AIIA** was also exchanged during the conference.

GI TAG FOR AMBAJI MOHANTHAL

Ambaji Mohanthal, a **traditional sweet offering** of the **Ambaji Temple in Gujarat**, has been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

DRISHTI PROJECT APPROVED

The **central government** has approved the **Delhi Revenue and Imaging Survey, Spatial Technology Initiative (DRISHTI)** project with an outlay of **₹65 crore**.

The project aims to **accelerate the granting of property rights to residents of unauthorized colonies in Delhi** under the **PM Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PM-UDAY)** scheme. It will be implemented across PM-UDAY cells in **all 13 districts of Delhi**, along with a dedicated unit at the **Revenue Department headquarters**.

BIMSTEC HOME MINISTERS MEETING

Union Minister Amit Shah has chaired the **inaugural Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Home Ministers' Meeting (HMM)** in **New Delhi**.

The event concluded with the unanimous adoption of the '**Delhi Declaration**' by the member states to **strengthen regional security and cooperation**. During the meeting, **five regional security initiatives** were approved, including the **BIMSTEC Convention against Trafficking in Persons** and the **BIMSTEC Plan of Action on Drug Control**.

PM-SETU FUNDS FOR ITI CLUSTERS

The **National Steering Committee** has approved an investment of **₹1,194.92 crore** under **PM-SETU** for **5 Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters** across **Maharashtra, Odisha, and Jammu & Kashmir**. With this, the **cumulative investment sanctioned** under the PM-SETU scheme has reached **₹3,687 crore**.

The initiative involves upgrading the **Kataka ITI cluster in Odisha** in partnership with the **Tata Steel Foundation**. Furthermore, the **Pune ITI cluster** will be upgraded with **BVG India**, **Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar ITI cluster** with **Belrise Industries**, and the **Jammu and Srinagar ITI clusters** in partnership with **Eagle Infra India and Inderdeep Infra India**, respectively.

NEW CAPF ACT NOTIFIED

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has notified the **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026**, which came into force on **October 08, 2026**. The validity of the legislation has been **challenged in the Supreme Court (SC)**.

The CAPF Act **regulates service conditions such as recruitment, promotion, and deputation**. Under the Act, **50% of Inspector General posts** and **at least 67% of Additional Director General posts** are reserved for **Indian Police Service (IPS) deputation**. It is to be noted that **prior recruitment rules stipulated that 20% of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) posts and 50% of IG posts were to be filled through deputation**.

NEW FEATURE ON RAJMARGYATRA APP

The **National Highways Authority of India** has introduced a '**Toll Plaza Feedback**' feature on the **'Rajmargyatra' mobile application**, **enabling National Highway users to share their experiences regarding toll plazas**.

MEITY AWARDS CONTRACT TO COROVER

The **National e-Governance Division** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has awarded a contract worth **₹3.63 crore** to the Indian AI startup **CoRover.ai** through a **Quality-and-Cost-Based Selection (QCBS)** process.

The contract aims to develop a **Unified Agentic AI assistant and bot platform** for government services, with **DigiLocker** serving as its first implementation.

INTERNATIONAL BHARAT 6G SYMPOSIUM

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia has inaugurated the **3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026** at **Yashobhoomi in Dwarka, New Delhi**, held alongside the **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026**.

The symposium, organised by the **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)**, aimed to **advance next-generation communication technologies and ambitions of India in sixth generation (6G)**. During the event, the B6GA MoUs with **five organisations**: **GSMA, one6G Association, GTI Alliance Ltd., 6G Industry Forum (6GIF) of Taiwan, and Voice of Indian Communication Technology Enterprises (VoICE)**.

NEW INSURANCE PRODUCTS FOR SHIPBUILDING

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched **two specialised credit risk insurance products** named the **Shipbuilding Project Credit Risk Insurance Policy (SbPCP)** and the **Business Credit Shield Policy - Shipbuilders (BCSPS)** during the **21st Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) meeting** held in **Mumbai**.

The products were introduced under the **Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)**. The SbPCP was developed by the **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd** to cover export shipbuilding projects and safeguard shipyards. The BCSPS was formulated by **The New India Assurance Company Ltd** to shield domestic shipbuilding projects from specified payment risks.

PM DHAN-DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA

The **PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)**, launched with an annual outlay of **₹24,000 crore** to **improve agricultural and allied sector productivity in specific regions**, has completed its **first full year of implementation**.

Three districts of Gujarat: **Kutch, Dahod, and Chhota Udepur**, have received awards for excellence under the PMDDKY.

NEW RAMSAR SITES

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav has announced that **Sukhna Wetland** (Chandigarh) and **Sauj Jheel** (Uttar Pradesh) have been officially designated as **Ramsar Convention Sites of International Importance**. With this addition, the **total number of internationally recognized Ramsar sites in India** has reached **103**.

It is to be noted that with the latest addition of Sauj Jheel, **Uttar Pradesh** now possesses **14 Ramsar sites**, placing the state **second in the country** after **Tamil Nadu**, which accounts for **20 sites**.

100% LITERATE UT

Lakshadweep has been designated as a **100% literate Union Territory** under the **ULLAS** (**Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society**) - **Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**.

The recognition follows the successful completion of the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)** by all eligible identified learners.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION COUNCIL MEETING

Union Minister of State (MoS) Dr Jitendra Singh and **UK Secretary of State Jonathan Reynolds** have participated in the **8th India-UK Science and Innovation Council (SIC) Meeting** in **New Delhi**.

During the meeting, they jointly inaugurated the **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)-Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD)-Oxford Nanopore Technologies India Genomics Centre of Excellence (CoE)** to **advance genomics research**.

It is to be noted that **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)** and India have jointly invested over **£450 million** in research initiatives **since 2008**. India has also announced an additional funding of **£3 million over 5 years** for **Phase 2 of the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source partnership**.

DATA CENTRE EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The **Frontier Tech Hub of NITI Aayog** has released the **Data Centre Evaluation Framework** to **help states assess investment proposals, evaluate infrastructure readiness, and promote sustainable data-centre development** amid the rising demand for AI and computing.

The framework recommends **5 key pillars**: **Power and Energy, Water and Cooling management, Environmental protection, Economic Value creation, and Policy, Governance, and Implementation**.

PM GATISHAKTI NMP

The **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PM GatiShakti NMP)** has **completed 5 years** since its **launch in 2021**. The initiative aims to **promote coordinated infrastructure planning and seamless connectivity across various sectors**.

The **PM GatiShakti NMP** functions as a **Geographic Information System (GIS)-based platform** that **integrates infrastructure data from various ministries, states, and Union Territories (UTs)** to enable synchronized planning and efficient project execution.

DATA ON PM-AJAY SCHEME

The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)** has announced that **18,093 villages** have been declared **Adarsh Grams** under the '**PM Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana**' (**PM-AJAY**). The scheme has expanded to cover over **47,200 villages** across the country.

An amount of **₹1,730 crore** has been released directly to states under the **Grants-in-Aid component** from **FY22 to FY26**. It is to be noted that a total of **785 student hostels** have been successfully completed under the scheme as of **September 2026**.

NEW WEBSITE FOR DAHD

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh has launched the website of the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)**. The website complies with the **Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) Version 3.0**, introduced by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

The website aims to **strengthen digital governance, improve public access to information, and provide a unified digital experience**.

WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN TADOBA

The **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)** in **Chandrapur district** of **Maharashtra** has launched a **first-of-its-kind sensor-based water management system** on a **pilot basis**.

The system regulates water levels at wildlife waterholes automatically using a **water-level sensor, a controller, and a relay connected to waterhole pumps**.

BIS SILVER REFINERY SCHEME

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Silver Refinery Scheme** during the **World Standards Day 2026** celebrations in **New Delhi** on **October 14**.

The scheme **establishes a national framework for silver purity**, extending structured purity assurance and **hallmarking to silver bullion and coins**. Hallmarked silver bullion and coins will feature a **standardized BIS mark**, the word "**SILVER**", **purity grades (999.9, 999.5, or 999.0)**, the manufacturer identification mark, and a **unique batch serial number**.

During the event, He also unveiled the **BIS Digital Standard Reader**, a **web-based platform** to convert XML (eXtensible Markup Language)-formatted Indian Standards into interactive **SMART (Standards Machine Applicable, Readable and Transferable) standards**. Additionally, **7 new Indian Standards** were released across sectors such as **textiles, clean mobility, therapeutic healthcare, robotics, and building materials**.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

Director General – Sanjay Garg

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1987

UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST

The Permanent Delegation of India to the UNESCO has added **3 new Indian sites** to the **UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List**.

The newly included locations are the **Karst-mud-volcano Complex of Baratang** and the **Andaman Subduction Volcanoes** (situated in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**), along with the **Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape** (**Chhattisgarh**). With these additions, the total number of Indian entries on the tentative list has increased to **81**, comprising **59 Cultural, 3 Mixed, and 19 Natural sites**.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Director General – Khaled El

Headquarters – Paris, France

Established in – 1945

Members – 194

NSAP RENAMED TO PMSSY

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the continuation of the **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** for **5 years** from **FY27 to FY31**, with an outlay of **₹53,428 crore**. The programme has been renamed as '**PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY)**'.

Additionally, various sub-schemes under the NSAP have been renamed: the **Old-Age Pension sub-scheme** (formerly Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme)) is now '**PM Vridhavastha Pension Yojana**', the **Widow Pension sub-scheme** (formerly Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme) is now '**PM Vidhawa Pension Yojana**', the **Disability Pension sub-scheme** (formerly Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme) is now '**PM Divyangjan Pension Yojana**', and the **National Family Benefit scheme** is now '**PM Parivar Labh Yojana**'.

UPGRADED AGRI WELFARE PORTAL

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched the upgraded '**Agri Welfare Portal**' to provide farmers with **single-window access to government schemes, financial assistance, and reliable agricultural information** via a **mobile-friendly digital platform**.

The portal integrates key initiatives like **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**, **PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**, and **AgriStack**, enabling farmers to easily **access scheme details, eligibility criteria, and application services**.

ICMR RESEARCH CENTRE

Union Minister JP Nadda has laid the foundation stone for the **first High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research Centre** of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** at **Keylong in Himachal Pradesh**.

The research centre aims to **promote studies on high-altitude health challenges and improve healthcare services for populations residing in mountainous regions**.

BS VII EMISSION STANDARDS PROPOSED

The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has proposed the **phase-wise implementation** of **Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) emission standards** for new cars and Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) across India.

The proposed standards are **aligned with the European Union (EU) emission (Euro 7) norms**. They are scheduled to be rolled out in **3 phases** over a **6-year period**, spanning from **April 2029 to April 2035**. Under the new guidelines, the permitted particulate matter limit has been **reduced from 23 nanometres (nm) to 10 nm**.

NEW AIR POLLUTION ANALYSIS FACILITY

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the **world's first-of-its-kind** air pollution analysis facility named the **Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL)** at the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** in **Delhi**.

The facility generates air pollution forecasts and compositional analysis at an **ultra-fine spatial resolution of 400 metres** for a **72-hour window**.

10TH FOUNDATION DAY

The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, an autonomous body under the **Ministry of AYUSH**, has celebrated its **10th foundation day** in **New Delhi**.

During the event, AIIA signed **two MoUs** with **Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth (RAV)** and **Arogya Bharati** to strengthen institutional collaboration and knowledge-sharing in Ayurveda.

CYCLONE WARNING SYSTEM

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has launched the **Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System (DSS)**.

The **interactive Web-based Geographic Information System (WebGIS) platform** is designed to **strengthen cyclone early-warning services, disaster preparedness, and public safety** across the country.

INDIA JOINS SIOFA

The central government, through the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD)**, has approved **India's accession** to the **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)**.

The accession will enable Indian fishing vessels to **access authorised high-seas fisheries and harvest high-value marine resources sustainably**.

BONUS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

The **Union Cabinet** has approved a **Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB)** equivalent to **78 days wages** for **11.4 lakh non-gazetted railway employees**. The implementation of the bonus will cost the **Indian Railways** an estimated amount of **₹2,009.61 crore**.

PANEL ON SUGARCANE FARMERS DEMANDS

The **central government** has constituted a **four-member committee** to **examine the demands of sugarcane farmers for higher remunerative returns** and the revision of the ex-mill **Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar**. The committee is headed by **Ramesh Chand**, a **former member of the NITI Aayog**.

MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF CISF

The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has approved the **restructuring** of the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**, effective **November 1, 2026**.

The move aims to **shift from territorial supervision** to **sector-specific functional commands** to **strengthen security at critical infrastructure and strategic establishments** of India by **reorganizing 8 of its 11 territorial sectors**.

COMMEMORATIVE COIN FOR GHANSHYAM DASS

The **central government** has released a **₹100 commemorative coin** and a **₹5 postage stamp** to honour **Ghanshyam Dass Jain**, a renowned **musician, composer, philanthropist, and cultural personality**.

The unveiling was held during the **National Annual Cultural Conclave** at the **Dr Ambedkar International Centre** in **New Delhi**.

NEW AUDIT FRAMEWORK

The **Ministry of Cooperation** has mandated the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2026 (MSCARO, 2026)** to introduce a **standardised and risk-based audit reporting framework**.

The framework is designed to **strengthen transparency, financial discipline, accountability, and regulatory oversight** in **Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS)**. Under this order, **auditors are required to report on key financial, administrative, governance, and statutory compliance parameters** in a standardized format. The reporting format includes **clear Yes/No responses supported by relevant remarks**.

DR L MURUGAN RESIGNS

Union Minister of State Dr L Murugan has **resigned** from his positions in the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** and the **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**. He has also stepped down as a member of the **Rajya Sabha**.

GEM INTRODUCES AABHAR COLLECTION

The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** has launched "**The AABHAR Collection**," a **dedicated digital storefront featuring curated gift items and hampers that reflect the cultural heritage of India**.

The collection features products associated with the **One District, One Product (ODOP)** initiative and **Geographical Indication (GI) tags**. It includes **294 product catalogue listings** sourced from **10 State and Central Handloom and Handicraft Emporiums**.

GeM (Government e-Marketplace):

Under – Ministry of Commerce and Industry

CEO – Mihir Kumar

Established in – 2016

MILESTONE OF UDAN SCHEME

The **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)** of India, implemented by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, was **launched in 2016** to **expand affordable air travel beyond major cities**. The scheme has successfully operationalised **687 regional routes** and **95 aerodromes**.

It is implemented by the **Airports Authority of India** as its nodal implementing agency. The next phase of the scheme was implemented in 2016 over a span of **10 years** from **FY27 to FY36**, with an outlay of **₹28,840 crore**.

UPGRADED NMMS APP LAUNCHED

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched the upgraded version of the **National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) 2.0 Mobile Application** to **record attendance of workers** under the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevia Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G)**. The enhanced app was developed with technical support from the **IIT Madras**.

CONTAINER MANUFACTURING PROMOTION SCHEME

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)** with an outlay of **₹10,000 crore** from **FY27 to FY40**, aiming to **establish a globally competitive container manufacturing ecosystem in India**.

The scheme includes **Interest Subvention Assistance (ISA)** with an outlay of **₹859 crore**, providing a **3% annual interest subvention** on eligible capital loans for manufacturers.

It features **Operational Expenditure Assistance (OEA)** with an outlay of **₹8,891 crore** for financial support on manufactured containers, and testing and certification assistance with **₹150 crore** to support the establishment of common facilities. The initiative aims to **boost annual domestic container manufacturing capacity approximately ten-fold**, reaching up to **7.5 lakh Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs)**.

SPORTS MANUFACTURING SCHEME

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme** with an outlay of **₹1,856.67 crore** for the period from **FY27 to FY34**. The scheme aims to **promote investment, manufacturing, innovation, and exports**, thereby strengthening the position of India in the global sports goods sector.

The scheme provides financial support of **₹105 crore** to manufacturers for **obtaining and renewing certifications from International Sports Federations**. It also designates a combined outlay of **₹1,130 crore** for interventions aimed at **attracting investments and expanding domestic manufacturing**.

PUNAH BHARAN LAUNCHED

Union Minister CR Patil has launched the '**Punah Bharan**' mobile application, developed by **BISAG-N** in collaboration with the **National Water Mission (NWM)** to support **scientific groundwater recharge planning**.

The app enables users to **identify potential artificial recharge zones within a radial distance of 3 km** and explore suitable recharge structures based on local conditions.

UNION CABINET APPROVES PM VGSY

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY)** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**. The scheme will be implemented from the **FY27 to FY31**, aligning with the timeline of the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**.

The **5-year program** has a total financial outlay of **₹7,395.55 crore**, which includes a **Central Share of ₹4,869.48 crore** and a **State Share of ₹2,526.07 crore**.

The initiative aims to build capacity and provide digital handholding for nearly **32 lakh elected representatives**. It also supports the creation of **2.55 lakh integrated Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP)** and targets the **annual execution of 2.55 lakh online audit plans** to enhance transparency and governance.

PRESIDENT RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE COIN

President Droupadi Murmu has released a **₹200 commemorative coin** at Lok Bhavan in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.

The coin was issued to mark the **200th birth anniversary** of **Mata Sahib Hasi Devi Ji**, the **fifth spiritual head** of **Shadani Darbar**, a **prominent Sindhi religious institution**.

MANDATORY AEBS FOR CARS AND TRUCKS

The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has issued a draft notification proposing to mandate **Advanced Emergency Braking Systems (AEBS)** for all new car models under the **M1 category** starting **October 1, 2030**, to **improve road safety and reduce collisions**.

These M1-category vehicles must be equipped with AEBS conforming to the **Automotive Industry Standard (AIS)-185**, while models already in production must comply by **October 1, 2032**.

Furthermore, the AEBS mandate will apply to **trucks** starting **October 1, 2027**, along with the requirement for **Electronic Stability Control (ESC) systems** conforming to **AIS-162**. It is to be noted that all motor vehicles must conform to **AIS-193**, with **motorcycles and three-wheelers without a steering wheel exempted** from this directive.

GREEN DIWALI CAMPAIGN

The **Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Programme Centre-Resource Partner (PC-RP)** of **World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India)**, supported by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, has launched a **nationwide** "**Green Diwali Campaign**".

The campaign urges citizens to **avoid firecrackers and celebrate a clean, green, and eco-friendly Diwali** in alignment with "**Mission LiFE**" (Lifestyle for Environment).

CONCESSIONAL LOCAL PASS FOR TOLL PLAZAS

The **Government of India** has introduced a '**Concessional Local Pass**' for **eligible non-commercial vehicle owners** residing **within 20 km** of a National Highway fee plaza, effective from **November 1, 2026**.

The annual fee for the pass is **₹1,500** for fee plazas located **outside municipal or local town areas**, and **₹3,000** for toll plazas situated **within these limits**.

KHET BACHAO ABHIYAN LAUNCHED

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched the nationwide '**Khet Bachao Abhiyan-Rabi 2026**' in **Karnal, Haryana**.

Scheduled from **October 22 to November 30, 2026**, the campaign aims to **promote soil health, balanced fertiliser use, crop diversification, and sustainable farming**.

14TH EDITION OF INDIA CHEM

The **14th edition** of **India Chem 2026**, a biennial event of the **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (MoC&F)**, has been held in **Mumbai** under the theme "**Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Chemicals Hub**".

The event is organised by the **Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC)** in partnership with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**. **Union Minister JP Nadda** has inaugurated the event and highlighted the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) Rasayan Scheme** as a major initiative to **boost the chemical sector of India**.

During the inaugural session, a **knowledge paper** prepared jointly by FICCI and Ernst & Young was released. It is to be noted that the government has set targets for the chemical industry of India to reach **$300 billion by 2030**, **$1 trillion by 2040**, and **$1.6 trillion by 2047**.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI):

President – Harsha Vardhan Agarwal

Director General – Anant Goenka

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1927

URBAN MOBILITY INDIA CONFERENCE

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, in collaboration with the **Government of Odisha**, has organised the **19th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Exhibition** and the **second National Urban Conclave** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

The **19th UMI Conference and Exhibition 2026** was held under the theme "**Urban Accessibility and Liveability in Digital Age**", focusing on **accessibility, integrated transport infrastructure, digital technologies, and improved quality of urban life**.

The **second National Urban Conclave 2026** was held under the theme "**Urban Rising - Rethinking Urban Systems, Solutions and Delivery**", emphasising **stronger urban institutions, implementation mechanisms, and effective city services**.

DATA ON PM-DAKSH SCHEME

The **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment** has reported that **1.87 lakh candidates** have received skill training and **96,162 candidates** have secured placements under the '**PM Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH)**' **Yojana**.

The Scheme, **launched in 2020**, is implemented by **3 corporations** under DoSJE: **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)**. **Indian citizens aged between 18 and 45 years** are eligible to enroll in the scheme.

CHINMAYA GLOBAL SAMMELAN

PM Narendra Modi has **inaugurated** the "**Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan**" at **Bharat Mandapam** in **New Delhi**.

The event marked the culmination of **year-long celebrations** commemorating the **75th anniversary** of the **Chinmaya Mission**, a **global spiritual movement** founded by **Swami Chinmayananda** to spread the message of **Vedanta and the Bhagavad Gita**.

2ND BRICS FMCBG MEETING

Sanjay Malhotra, the **RBI Governor**, and **Anuradha Thakur**, **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Secretary**, have co-chaired the **2nd BRICS Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting** in **Mumbai**.

The former alongside **Dilma Rousseff**, **New Development Bank (NDB) President**, has inaugurated the **BNKP**, a **centralized digital platform designed to consolidate and share knowledge and best practices from across BRICS Working Groups**.

POLISH PM VISITS INDIA

Donald Tusk, the **Prime Minister of Poland**, **visited India** at the invitation of PM Narendra Modi to review the **India-Poland Strategic Partnership (2024)**. Both leaders met at **Hyderabad House** in **New Delhi** and endorsed the mid-term review of the **Action Plan (2024-2028)**.

The **India-Poland Business Forum** was held in **New Delhi and Bengaluru** to foster business collaboration between the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** and the **Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH)**. Both nations agreed to **double bilateral trade** to reach **$6 billion by 2030**.

Poland joined the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**. It is to be noted that PM Donald Tusk announced that **March 30** will be observed annually as **Poland-India Partnership Day**, commemorating the **establishment of diplomatic relations in 1954**.

CYCLONE ARNAB

A **powerful tropical storm** '**Cyclone Arnab**' has battered the **eastern coast of India** after making landfall. The system, which emerged in the **Bay of Bengal**, marks the **first named storm** of the **2026 North Indian Ocean cyclone season**.

ECONOMY

MSP INCREASED FOR RABI CROPS

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the increase in **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** for all **mandated Rabi crops** for the **Marketing Season 2027-28** to ensure remunerative prices for growers.

The **highest absolute increase in MSP** was announced for **Safflower at ₹675 per quintal**, followed by **Rapeseed and Mustard at ₹413 per quintal**. The increase for other Rabi crops includes **₹390 per quintal for Lentil**, **₹136 per quintal for Barley**, **₹83 per quintal for Gram**, and **₹25 per quintal for Wheat**.

MSP PROCUREMENT APPROVED

Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has approved **procurement worth ₹5,547.99 crore** at the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** for the **Kharif Marketing Season 2026-27** across **Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana**.

Uttar Pradesh received the **largest share** of the approved procurement at **₹3,992.57 crore**. Procurement worth **₹1,107 crore** was approved for **pulse and oilseed farmers** in Karnataka, while Telangana received **₹448.42 crore**.

GDP FORECAST

According to the "**Global Economic Outlook - September 2026**" report released by **Fitch Ratings**, the **GDP growth forecast of India** for the **FY27** has been **raised by 50 bps to 6.9%** from the earlier projection of 6.4%.

The rating agency also projected that the **headline inflation of India** will increase to **5.5%** by **December 2026**.

Fitch Ratings:

CEO – Paul Taylor

President – Ian Linnell

Headquarters – New York, USA and London, UK

Established in – 1914

GDP FORECAST

According to the "**Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2026: Navigating Prolonged Energy Shocks and El Nino**" report released by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of India** for **FY27** is raised to **7%** (an **increase of 40 basis points** from the earlier estimate of 6.6%).

The report also projected the **inflation rate of India** for **FY27** at **5%**.

DATA ON NET FDI

According to the **monthly bulletin** of the **RBI**, the **net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into India reached a **five-year high** of **$7.35 billion** in **July 2026**. This is the highest recorded inflow since **May 2021** when it stood at $8.80 billion.

The **net FDI** in July 2026 represents a **64% increase** compared to the same period in the previous year. The **cumulative net FDI** for the period from **April to July 2026** reached **$13.4 billion**.

SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME INTEREST RATES

The **Department of Economic Affairs** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** has **maintained the interest rates for all Small Savings Schemes (SSS)** for the **third quarter (Q2) of the FY27**. This marks the **14th consecutive quarter** without a revision since the last adjustment in December 2024.

The interest rates for **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)** and **Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)** are fixed at **8.2%**. The rates for **National Savings Certificate (NSC)**, **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)**, and **Public Provident Fund (PPF)** are **7.7%**, **7.5%**, and **7.1%** respectively.

It is to be noted that the MoF has performed **quarterly reviews** of SSS interest rates since 2016 based on the methodology of the **Shyamala Gopinath Committee (2023)**. Under this framework, SSS rates are kept **25 to 100 basis points (bps) higher than the government bond yields**.

COMMITMENT FOR SME GROWTH FUND

The **Union Cabinet** has approved a commitment of **₹10,000 crore** for the establishment of the **SME Growth Fund (SGF)**. Under this framework, the centre will provide the amount to an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** to support **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**.

The initiative aims to provide growth-oriented capital for SMEs in **manufacturing, services, technology, and innovation-driven sectors**. It is designed to enable the emergence of **"champion Indian enterprises"** across strategic value chains.

WINDFALL TAX ON DIESEL AND ATF REVISED

The **Ministry of Finance** has reduced the **windfall tax** on the export of **diesel** and **Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)** effective from **October 1, 2026**.

The **export duty on diesel** was lowered to **₹16 per litre** from **₹20**, and the **levy on ATF** was reduced to **₹10.5 per litre** from **₹15**. The government has maintained the **export duty on petrol at ₹0.5 per litre** for the upcoming fortnight.

GDP GROWTH FORECAST

According to a report by the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, the **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India** for **Q2 FY27** is projected to grow by **7.3%**.

The MoF also highlighted a **positive export outlook**, with **total exports** reaching **$400 billion** during the **first five months of FY27**.

EXPORT SCHEMES EXTENDED TILL 2026

The **Department of Commerce (DOC)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)** has **extended** the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme** until **December 31, 2026**.

The **Ministry of Textiles (MoT)** has also **extended** the **Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme** until **December 31, 2026**. These extensions are intended to **mitigate the impact of geopolitical disruptions in West Asia**.

GDP FORECAST BY WORLD BANK

According to a report by the **World Bank (WB)**, the **GDP growth of India** for **FY27** is **revised upwards** to **7.1%** from the earlier projection of 6.6%.

Additionally, the WB projects the **GDP growth of India** at **7.2%** for **FY28** and **7%** for **FY29**.

GDP FORECAST BY IMF

According to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, **India's growth forecast for FY27** has been raised to **7%** from **the earlier 6.4%**. The IMF also revised its **growth forecast for FY28** upward to **7%** from **6.7%**.

International Monetary Fund (IMF):

MD – Kristalina Georgieva

Headquarters – Washington DC, USA

Established in – 1944

GST COUNCIL MEETING

The **57th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** was held in **New Delhi** under the chairpersonship of **Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**.

During the meeting, the council made recommendations relating to **process reforms**, primarily covering **registration, returns, refunds, and adjudication**. The council also issued clarifications regarding the applicability of GST on the supply of certain goods and services, alongside measures for **trade facilitation and streamlining compliances**.

GDP FORECAST BY UNCTAD

According to the "**Trade and Development Report 2026: The Geoeconomics of Development**" released by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, the **economy of India** is projected to grow by **7.3%**.

The report projected **global economic growth** at **2.6%** (down from **2.9% in 2025**) and growth in **developing economies** at **4%** (down from **4.7% in 2025**). Additionally, **Asia is expected to contribute 59% of global growth in 2026**.

GDP FORECAST BY BMI

According to a report by **Business Monitor International (BMI)**, a unit of **Fitch Solutions Company**, the **GDP growth forecast of India** for **FY27** has been raised to **7.5%** from 6.8%.

However, the **forecast for FY28** is lowered to **6.3%** from 6.5% due to **concerns over household consumption and external economic risks**.

NEW GST STANDING COMMITTEE

The central government has announced that **Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu** will become permanent members of a new **Standing Committee under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework**.

The committee, comprising **12 states**, aims to **strengthen tax administration and expand the taxpayer base**. India currently has **1.7 crore registered GST taxpayers**.

FIRST COHORT OF FUND MANAGERS

The **Research, Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF)**, a **flagship initiative of the central government**, has announced its **first cohort of 19 Second Level Fund Managers (SLFMs)**.

The cohort comprises **14 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and 5 Focused Research Organisations (FROs)**, approved by the **Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS)**. These approved institutions have secured a **combined RDIF funding commitment of ₹7,131 crore** under the **government RDI Scheme**.

AMENDMENTS TO INDIA MAURITIUS DTAA

The Central Government has notified amendments to the **India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** to **prevent treaty abuse and tax avoidance**. The amended treaty, whose protocol was signed in **2024**, introduces the **Principal Purpose Test (PPT)** and came into force on **August 10, 2026**.

Following the amendment, **Mauritius-based investors and investment funds** claiming treaty benefits may face **increased scrutiny regarding the commercial substance and purpose of their transactions**.

CBDT INTRODUCES FORM 173A

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** under the **Ministry of Finance** has introduced a new reporting **Form 173A** for taxpayers seeking specified **Income-Tax exemptions** on interest and capital gains earned from **government securities**.

Effective from **October 19, 2026**, the form was notified under the **Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2026**. Form 173A aims to standardise reporting, improve transparency, and strengthen the verification of tax exemption claims.

The CBDT also inserted **Rule 281A** into the **Income-tax Rules, 2026**, to facilitate reporting of exemption claims under **Schedule IV, Table Serial Numbers 13D and 13E** of the **Income-tax Act, 2025**. Eligibility for this form is applicable to specified **Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)** and the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**.

BANKING

PAYGLOCAL GETS IFSCA APPROVAL

PayGlocal, a **cross-border payments company**, has received **in-principle approval** from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to establish a **Payment Service Provider (PSP)** in the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) City** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

FIRST BLUE BOND

Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd has launched the **inaugural blue bond in India**. The bond aims to raise **₹600 crore**, with a **₹500 crore green shoe option**, and has a **tenor of 10 years**.

The debt offering received an **AA+ rating**, signifying its status in the upper tier of domestic debt instruments, and **SBI Capital Markets** served as the arranger for the issuance. It is to be noted that **SMFCL is the first NBFC in India dedicated to the maritime sector**.

GUIDELINES FOR NPS SWASTHYA PENSION SCHEME

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has issued operational guidelines for the **National Pension System (NPS) Swasthya Pension Scheme** under **Section 14 of the PFRDA Act, 2013**. The scheme allows an **entry age of 18 to 70 years**, with **renewals permitted** up to **85 years**.

The minimum initial contribution includes the first-year insurance premium, **₹200 for annual maintenance charges** of the **Health Benefit Administrator**, and at least **₹1,000** for investment in the NPS Swasthya account. The **minimum subsequent contribution** required is **₹10**.

SOCIAL BOND BY NABKISAN

NABKISAN Finance Ltd, a **subsidiary of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, has listed the **first Social Bond in India** dedicated to the **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector** on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**. The bond raised **₹180 crore**.

The **5-year bond** has a coupon rate of **8.1%** and is scheduled to mature in **September 2031**. It is to be noted that the instrument has been assigned the **highest domestic credit ratings** of **CRISIL AAA (Stable) and CARE AAA (Stable)**.

APPLE PAY LAUNCHED IN INDIA

Apple Inc. has launched **Apple Pay** in **India**. The service enables transactions specifically through **Visa** and **Mastercard** credit cards issued by **Axis Bank**.

SIGN GETS PA LICENSE

Samvriddhi Inclusive Growth Network Pvt Ltd (SIGN), a **subsidiary of MOS Utility Ltd**, has received **in-principle authorisation** from the **RBI** to operate as an **Online Payment Aggregator (PA-Online)**.

PROJECT JAGROOK

SEBI has launched a nationwide investor-awareness campaign named "**Project Jagrook**" in **Chandigarh**, which will run until **March 2027**.

The initiative aims to improve **financial literacy** in **rural areas and educational institutions**, while warning investors against **anonymous tips, finfluencers, and exaggerated return claims**.

VIBE BY ICICI LOMBARD

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd has launched a **health insurance product** named '**VIBE**' specifically for the **Gen Z demographic**. The insurance plan is designed for young adults within the **age group of 18 to 35 years**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Anup Bagchi has been appointed as the **MD and CEO** of **HDFC Bank** for a **3-year term** starting October 27, 2026. He succeeds **Sashidhar Jagdishan**.

Anup Kumar Saha is appointed as the **MD & CEO** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd** for **3 years**, starting January 2027. He succeeds **Ashok Vaswani**. **Mahesh Muralidhar Pai** has been appointed as the **MD & CEO** of the **South Indian Bank** for a **3-year term** starting October 2026. He succeeds **PR Seshadri**.

BOB APPOINTED AS PENSION FUND SPONSOR

Bank of Baroda (BoB), through its subsidiary **BoB Pension Fund Management Company Limited**, has received the **Certificate of Appointment** as a **Sponsor of a Pension Fund** from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.

It is to be noted that **BoB** is the **second Public Sector Bank (PSB)** to obtain this sponsorship, following the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, which was the **first PSB** to enter the pension fund segment in **2008**.

POORNA RAKSHAK BY PRAMERICA LIFE

Pramerica Life Insurance Ltd, a **Joint Venture between DIL and Prudential International Insurance Holdings, Ltd (PIIH)**, has launched a **new insurance product** named "**Poorna Rakshak**". It is a **non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan**.

INDUSIND BANK LAUNCHES GCC BANKING VERTICAL

IndusInd Bank has launched a dedicated **Global Capability Centre (GCC) Banking vertical** to provide a **specialized approach** for the unique requirements of such centers.

The vertical consolidates **5 core capabilities** under a **single relationship management structure** to streamline the service delivery for GCCs.

IndusInd Bank:

MD & CEO – Rajiv Anand

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1994

PROGRAMMABLE CBDC BY BOI

Bank of India (BOI), a **Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, has launched a **User-Level Programmable Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** with **auto-issuance capability**.

The system allows users to **automate recurring Digital Rupee (e₹) payments** and specify the purpose for which the funds can be used. It is to be noted that the technical functionality for this programmable CBDC solution was developed by **Montran India**.

SEBI APPROVES REGULATORY REFORMS

The **SEBI** has approved several regulatory reforms to revamp **Portfolio Management Services (PMS)** and streamline **settlement framework**s.

The board introduced the **"PRIM" framework**, allowing PMS providers to invest in direct mutual fund schemes and **Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs)**. The **minimum ticket size for SIFs is set at ₹25 lakh**. Discretionary PMS can now invest up to **10% of client Assets Under Management (AUM)** in investment-grade unlisted debt with client consent.

SEBI revised the settlement framework by introducing a formula-based method for settlement amounts and a fast-track mechanism for **disclosure-related violations up to ₹10 lakh**. The application window for settlement is **extended from 60 to 90 days**, with a one-time 90-day window for pending cases.

The rules for **Vault Managers** are updated to cover bullion-linked Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and derivatives, with their **minimum net worth requirement increased to ₹75 crore**. SEBI also eased retrospective listing norms for unlisted **Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)** and approved a fourth settlement scheme for illiquid stock-option cases.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

Chairman – Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1988

NEW APPOINTMENT IN NIACL

Lavanya R Mundayur has been appointed as the **CMD** of the **New India Assurance Company Ltd (NIACL)**. She succeeds **Girija Subramanian**. Her tenure will continue until her superannuation in **May 2029**.

INDIABULLS GETS CIC STATUS

The **RBI** has granted a **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** to **Indiabulls Ltd** to operate as a **Core Investment Company (CIC)**, bringing the entity under the regulatory framework of the RBI. It is to be noted that a CIC is a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** with an **asset size of ₹100 crore or more**.

To qualify as a CIC, an entity must hold **at least 90% of its net assets** in **investments or loans of group companies**, including equity shares, preference shares, bonds, or debentures. Furthermore, **at least 60% of the net assets** must be specifically maintained in the **equity investments of group companies**.

SEBI INTRODUCES CREDIT RISK-O-METER

SEBI has issued a circular titled "**Introduction of Credit Risk-o-Meter as an Additional Disclosure Mechanism for Debt Securities**", mandating a **colour-coded Credit Risk-o-Meter** to help investors assess the credit risk of debt securities.

The Credit Risk-o-Meter must be displayed across various platforms, including **offer documents, abridged prospectuses, private placement memoranda, issuer advertisements, and Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) web and mobile platforms**.

It is to be noted that the existing **SEBI credit ratings** (ranging from **AAA to D**) are mapped into **six distinct risk levels**, spanning from '**Lowest Credit Risk**' to '**high to very High risk of default**', with each level represented by a specific colour.

PAYTM LOSES SCHEDULED STATUS

The **RBI** has excluded **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL)**, an associate firm of Paytm, **from the list of recognized Scheduled Banks (SBs)**.

It is to be noted that under the **RBI Act, 1934**, a scheduled bank must maintain **paid-up capital and reserves of at least ₹5 lakh**, along with satisfying other statutory conditions.

Paytm:

Parent – One97 Communications Ltd

CEO – Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Headquarters – Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Established in – 2010

RBI HIKES REPO RATE

The **RBI** conducted the **4th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting** of **FY27** under the chairmanship of Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**.

The MPC voted unanimously to **increase the policy repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by **25 basis points (bps) to 5.50%**, marking the **first rate hike since February 2023**.

Consequently, the **standing deposit facility (SDF) rate** was adjusted to **5.25%**, while the **marginal standing facility (MSF) rate** and the **Bank Rate** stand at **5.75%**. The panel shifted its policy stance from neutral to "**calibrated tightening**." The **RBI** raised the **GDP growth forecast of India for FY27** by 40 bps to **7.1%**.

Additionally, the central bank set a threshold of **₹25,000 crore** under the **Standardised Approach for Counterparty Credit Risk (SA-CCR)**, effective from **April 1, 2027**, and announced the creation of a **Technical Consultative Committee for Financial Markets**.

FEDERAL BANK LAUNCHES VERTO

Federal Bank has launched a **premium savings account** named '**Verto**' to offer **integrated financial solutions for young professionals and entrepreneurs**.

KVB PARTNERS WITH ZURICH KOTAK

Karur Vysya Bank has signed a **bancassurance partnership** with **Zurich Kotak General Insurance Company (India)** to sell the latter's **general insurance products** via the **bank's branches**. The partnership aims to enhance customer access to **non-life insurance solutions**.

UNDP AND GENERALI LAUNCH CHALLENGE

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **Generali Central Insurance Company Limited** (formerly Future Generali India Insurance Company Ltd) have jointly launched an **insurance innovation challenge** to strengthen the resilience of the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in India**.

Under the initiative, a maximum of **3 winners** will receive grants of up to **$40,000 each**.

RBI OPENS SPECIAL FOREX WINDOW

The **RBI** has **opened a designated foreign exchange window** to fulfill the **complete daily dollar requirements** of **three public sector oil marketing companies**: **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd**. The facility is scheduled to begin operations on **October 12, 2026**.

Additionally, the RBI has **tightened regulations governing foreign exchange derivatives** involving the **Indian rupee (INR)** and **reduced the threshold from $100 million to $5 million** across all **Authorized Dealers (ADs)**.

In another update, the RBI has **increased the minimum daily maintenance requirement of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** for **scheduled banks** from 90% to **99% of the prescribed requirement**, effective from the **reporting fortnight beginning October 16, 2026**.

SEBI NOTIFIES CAC

The **SEBI** has notified a **Common Advertisement Code (CAC)** for **market intermediaries**, enabling them to **engage celebrities for brand or entity-level promotion** while **restricting endorsements of specific financial products or services**.

Introduced through amendments to the **SEBI (Intermediaries) Regulations, 2008**, the **new code will come into force on April 8, 2027**. Additionally, SEBI has **extended the timeline for the revision of Initial Public Offering (IPO) issue size** until **March 31, 2027**.

TRADE KONNECT LAUNCHED

Karnataka Bank has launched a digital platform named "**Trade Konnect**" to **enable online submission of import, export, and outward cross-border remittance requests** without visiting physical branches.

The platform was developed in partnership with **Kyzer Software (India) Pvt Ltd**, which provided technology support.

RBI APPROVAL FOR NOVAFUSION CAPITAL

NovaFusion Capital has **received approval** from the **RBI** to operate as a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**.

The company is targeting **₹5,000 crore** in **assets under management (AUM)** over **5 years** to **finance commercial electric vehicles (EVs)**.

FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMME

HSBC India (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd, India) has announced a **₹200 crore flagship philanthropic programme** for **4 years**, spanning from **2026 to 2030**. The initiative aims to **enhance financial literacy across the country**.

NEW INSURANCE PLANS BY LIC

LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India) has **launched 3 new insurance plans** named '**New Jeevan Dhara-II (Plan 892)**', '**Health Shield (Plan 907)**', and '**New Cancer Cover (Plan 908)**'.

These schemes are introduced to provide **retirement income, health protection, and financial assistance against cancer risks**.

NAVA DHAMAKA 2026

Karnataka Bank Ltd (KBL) has launched the "**Nava Dhamaka 2026: Enhancing Banking Experience**" initiative in **Bengaluru**.

The initiative introduces **9 banking solutions** across **digital banking, investments, payments, customer engagement, and lending** to improve customer convenience, digital payments, service delivery, and technology-driven entrepreneurship.

SEBI OVERHAULS CLOSING AUCTION SESSION

SEBI has announced an **overhaul** of the **Closing Auction Session (CAS) framework** in the **equity cash market segment of stock exchanges**, effective from **December 7, 2026**.

Under the updated framework, CAS will be implemented as a **separate 10-minute session** from **3:30 PM to 3:40 PM** on all trading days, **replacing the previous 3:15 PM to 3:35 PM timing**. The new session will comprise **three distinct phases**.

IDBI BANK STAKE SALE APPROVED

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the sale of a **60.72% stake** in **IDBI Bank Ltd** to **10955230 Canada Inc**, **a subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holding**. Valued at **₹52,878 crore**, this proposed transaction marks the **largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the financial sector of India**.

RBI REVISES LEVERAGE RATIO FRAMEWORK

The **RBI** has **revised the leverage ratio framework for banks**, **modifying requirements for calculating exposure measures and disclosures**. The amended directions will come into effect from **April 1, 2027**.

Under the revised norms, the **minimum leverage ratio** is set at **4% for domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs)** and **3.5% for other banks**. **Indian branches of global systemically important banks (G-SIBs)** must maintain a leverage ratio of 3.5% plus the **applicable leverage ratio buffer**, including any additional buffer prescribed by their home regulator.

These amendments aim to **align the framework** with the **leverage ratio standard issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision** in **2017**. It is to be noted that a **100% credit conversion factor** will apply to **certain specified items** under the revised framework.

GLOBAL WEALTH PLAN

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Ltd has launched the "**Global Wealth Plan**" through Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**), Gujarat.

The **$-denominated, unit-linked, non-participating life insurance-cum-savings plan** offers **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** **market-linked global investment opportunities and life insurance protection**.

EMIRATES NBD BANK BRANCHES TO MERGE

RBI has approved the **scheme of amalgamation** to merge the Indian branches of **Dubai-based Emirates NBD Bank (National Bank of Dubai)** with **RBL Bank Ltd**, effective **December 1, 2026**.

FESTIVE CAMPAIGN BY BANK OF BARODA

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched a **new festive campaign** titled "**bob Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang- Shubh bhi, Labh bhi**" to **offer a range of financial benefits** across various products, including **home loans, car loans, MSME financing, savings products, and debit card spending**.

NEW BRAND IDENTITY

ICICI Life Insurance Ltd (formerly known as **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Ltd**) has unveiled a **new brand identity** along with its tagline, "**Har Kal Aasaan**".

PFRDA LAUNCHES NPS CENTRAL

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has launched a **unified digital platform** named '**NPS Central**' to **streamline enrollment, investments, and account management** for **National Pension System (NPS) subscribers**.

The platform is **jointly developed and managed** by **three Central Recordkeeping Agencies (CRAs)**: **Protean eGov Technologies**, **KFin Technologies Ltd**, and **Computer Age Management Services Ltd (CAMS)**.

1 FINANCE GETS SEBI APPROVAL

1 Finance Pvt Ltd, an **advisory and wealth-tech firm**, has **received in-principle approval** from the **SEBI** to set up an **Asset Management Company (AMC)**. The firm is positioned to become the **first AMC to operate under the Mutual Funds Lite (MF Lite) framework**.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION SATURATION CAMPAIGN

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** has announced a nationwide **Financial Inclusion (FI) Saturation Campaign**.

The initiative is scheduled to run from **October 21 to December 31, 2026**, covering **2.70 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** to **expand access to formal banking services, social security schemes, and financial literacy at the grassroots level**.

RBI REVISES LEVERAGE RATIO FRAMEWORK

RBI has issued the **RBI (Commercial Banks - Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Eleventh Amendment Directions, 2026**. The new directions align the **leverage ratio framework** with the **2017 standard** developed by the **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)** under the **Basel III framework**.

The revised framework will come into **effect on April 1, 2027**. Under the updated framework, the **mandatory leverage ratio** is set at **4%** for **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**, **3.5% plus an applicable leverage ratio buffer** for **branches of global systemically important banks (G-SIBs) in India**, and **3.5% for all other banks**.

AU SFB PARTNERS WITH PAYTM

AU Small Finance Bank (SFB), **India's largest Small Finance Bank**, has partnered with **Paytm** to launch the '**Paytm AU SFB Credit Card**', **India's first Family Lounge Access RuPay Credit Card**, offering **rewards on digital payments** and **complimentary airport lounge access for families**.

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB):

Executive Director – Uttam Tibrewal

Headquarters – Jaipur

Established in – 1996

Paytm:

Parent – One97 Communications Ltd

CEO – Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Headquarters – Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Established in – 2010

REAL-TIME MARGIN WAIVER FRAMEWORK

The **SEBI** has introduced a **real-time margin waiver framework** via an **official circular**, scheduled to come into force on **February 22, 2027**. The framework allows clients to utilize the value of shares delivered through **Early Pay-in (EPI)** towards margin requirements for subsequent buy and sell positions in the cash market.

Under the new rules, **Clearing Corporations (CC)** will determine the available EPI value on the trade date as the lower of the value of securities for which EPI has been made and the value of securities sold. It is to be noted that if a client squares off their sale position in securities that utilized the EPI benefit, the corresponding EPI value will be removed.

PB MONEY GETS SEBI LICENSE

PB Money has secured an **Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP) licence** from **SEBI** to **simplify bond investments and expand access to fixed-income products for retail investors**.

The company has partnered with **Paisabazaar** to allow investors to **explore bond offerings and complete transactions via the platform**.

AGREEMENTS

TDB SIGNS AGREEMENT

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** has signed an agreement with **Multi Nano Sense Technologies Pvt Ltd** to provide financial support of **₹37.51 crore** under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.

The total approved cost of the project is **₹75.02 crore**. The project focuses on the development of a **Platform Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) + Analog Front-End (AFE) System-on-Chip (SoC) Multi-Gas Sensor** to elevate its technology readiness from **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-4 to TRL-9**.

NRIDA SIGNS MOU WITH IIM KOLKATA

The **National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA)** under the **Ministry of Rural Development** has signed an **MoU** with the **Indian Institute of Management Kolkata (IIM Kolkata)** to conduct a **4-year longitudinal Impact Assessment Study** of roads built under the **PM Gram Sadak Yojana - IV (PMGSY-IV)** and the **PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)**.

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS SIGNS MOUS

The **Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)** has signed **MoU**s with prominent academic, research, and innovation institutions, including the **IIT Madras**, the **IISc Bengaluru**, and **IIM Bangalore**, to **enhance scheme implementation, monitoring, infrastructure quality, and innovation ecosystems**.

ISRO AND ESA EXTEND AGREEMENT

The **ISRO** and the **European Space Agency (ESA)** have extended their **Cooperative Agreement** for **5 years** until **January 8, 2032**.

The agreement was formalized through an **exchange of letters** signed in **Paris, France**, during the **International Space Summit**.

European Space Agency:

Director General – Josef Aschbacher

Headquarters – Paris, France

Established in – 1975

AGREEMENT FOR BHARATNET

Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has signed an agreement for the implementation of the **Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)** in **Maharashtra** under a **State-led model**.

The agreement was formalized through a collaboration between the Maharashtra government, **MahaNet Digital Infrastructure Ltd (MDIL)**, **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL)**, and **Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation Ltd (MahaIT)**.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL):

CEO – A Robert J Ravi

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2000

ICAR SIGNS MOU WITH FCI

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** to conduct research on **alternative fumigation technologies** for the **safe and sustainable management of storage pests in wheat and rice**.

The **two-year Phase-I** project will be implemented by the **Ludhiana-based ICAR - Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET)**.

Food Corporation of India (FCI):

CMD – Rabindra Kumar Agarwal

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1965

TDB SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH AGNIKUL COSMOS

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** has signed an agreement with the **Chennai-based Agnikul Cosmos Pvt Ltd** to facilitate the development of the **'Agnibaan' Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)**.

The project involves a financial commitment of **₹200 crore**, which will be provided through **Optionally Convertible Debentures (OCD)** under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.

IIEST SIGNS MOU WITH TCS

The **Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST)** in **West Bengal** has signed an MoU with **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to establish a state-of-the-art **CoE in AI** on the campus of the former.

The centre aims to facilitate **advanced research and collaborative development** in the field of AI.

HAL SIGNS MOU

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has signed an MoU with **SkyPulse Solutions International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Pvt Ltd** for the **acquisition, financing, leasing, and lifecycle support** of **30 HAL-manufactured helicopters** (**single and twin-engine variants**).

The deal is valued at **₹2,491 crore**. The induction of the helicopters is scheduled to begin in **FY28**.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL):

CMD – Kota Ravi

Headquarters – Bengaluru

Established in – 1940

TDB SIGNS AGREEMENT

The **Technology Development Board** has signed an agreement with the **Bengaluru-based BigEndian Semiconductors** to provide financial assistance of **₹130 crore** for the execution of **"Project VeerAI"**. The total cost of the project is estimated at **₹260 crore**.

The financial support is sanctioned under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**. The project aims to advance the technology from **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-5 to TRL-9** to ensure its commercial readiness.

TATA PROJECTS SIGNS MOU

Tata Projects Ltd (TPL) has signed an **MoU** with **Canada-based MDS Aero Support Corporation (MDS Aero)** to develop **advanced aero-engine testing infrastructure** in India.

JNPA PARTNERS WITH IFC FOR BLUE FINANCING

The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** has signed an agreement in New Delhi with the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, a **member of the World Bank Group**, for the **first blue financing loan in India** worth **$70 million (₹672 crore)**.

The loan is structured as a **10-year United States Dollar (USD)-linked External Commercial Borrowing (ECB)**. The funds will be utilized to develop **Shore Power Supply (SPS) infrastructure** across the terminals of the JNPA in **Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

ADANI POWER SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH BHUTAN'S DGPC

Adani Power Ltd has signed a **Shareholders Agreement (SHA)** with the state-owned **Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)** of **Bhutan** to develop the **770 MW Chamkharchhu-I Hydroelectric Project**.

The project is located on the **Chamkharchhu River** in the **Zhemgang District** of Bhutan. It is to be noted that this venture marks the **second major hydropower collaboration** between both companies.

NSO SIGNS MOU WITH PAHLE INDIA FOUNDATION

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** has signed an MoU with the **New Delhi-based Pahle India Foundation (PIF)** to enhance cooperation in **official statistics, research, and data analysis**.

FWDA PARTNERS WITH KEYDEF

Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA) has partnered with **Keydef**, the defence and aerospace division of **Portugal-based Sketchpixel LDA**, to **manufacture advanced drones for global markets**.

Under the partnership, the **Kaal Bhairava autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** and the **YAMA swarm interceptor drone** will be produced in **Portugal**. The initiative is supported by an initial investment of **€6 million**.

ZUPPA SIGNS MOU WITH TNUAVC

Zuppa Geo Navigation Technologies Pvt Ltd (Zuppa) has signed an MoU with the **Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation (TNUAVC)** to establish **indigenous drone training laboratories** at **Army Regimental Centres**.

The collaboration aims to develop a structured **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) pilot training programme** for **Agniveers** and **Indian defence personnel**.

NALANDA UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU WITH CSIR-TKDL

Nalanda University in **Bihar** has signed an **MoU** with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (CSIR-TKDL) Unit** to collaborate on **Traditional Knowledge (TK)**, **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**, **People's Rights, and Cultural Heritage**, including **Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs)**.

MOUS FOR AVGC-XR ECOSYSTEM

The **Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)** has signed **5 MoUs** with entities from the **media, entertainment, technology, and esports sectors** during the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) FRAMES 2026** held in **Mumbai**.

The collaborating organizations include the **Motion Picture Association (MPA) India**, **Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT)**, the **E-Sports Games Federation (ESGF)**, **RioWood**, and **Warm Up Ventures**.

IOA AND KSOC SIGN SPORTS MOU

The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has signed an MoU with the **Korean Sport and Olympic Committee (KSOC)** to bolster **bilateral cooperation in the sports sector**.

The MoU was finalized during the **20th Asian Games** to create **enhanced professional opportunities for athletes** from both India and **South Korea**.

JCM OPERATIONAL MANUAL

India and **Japan** have launched the **Operational Manual for the India-Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** to promote advanced **low-carbon technologies** and mobilize **climate finance** to facilitate technology cooperation and support high-integrity **emission reductions and removals** in India.

PU AND NIT NAGALAND SIGN MOU

Pondicherry University (PU) has signed an MoU with the **NIT Nagaland** under the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation-Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (ANRF-PAIR)** program to **bolster academic and research cooperation**.

It is to be noted that NIT Nagaland is the **first institution from the North-East region** to participate in the PAIR project. Under the **PAIR Network Scheme**, the **IISc Bengaluru** will act as the **hub institution**, while PU and NIT Nagaland will serve as the **spoke institutions**.

HICAL TECHNOLOGIES SIGNS MOU WITH SAFRAN

Hical Technologies Pvt Ltd, an **Indian aerospace and defence manufacturer**, has signed an MoU with **France-based Safran Aerosystems** to explore the establishment of a **Joint Venture** in India for the **manufacturing of complex systems** for **Dassault Rafale systems**.

TDB SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH PEPTRIS TECHNOLOGIES

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** has signed an agreement with **Peptris Technologies** in **Bengaluru** to provide financial support of **₹86 crore** under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.

The financial support is allocated for a project titled "**VIGOR: Advancing AI-Discovered Molecules from Bench to Clinic**", which has a **total project cost of ₹172 crore**. The project aims to **advance four drug candidates** from **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-4 to TRL-6**.

NSRLM PARTNERS WITH BRAC INTERNATIONAL

The **Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission (NSRLM)** has partnered with **BRAC International** to launch a **3-year** initiative named "**SAY-SOBLOK**" under the **Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana (SAY)** and the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

The initiative targets **4,000 extremely vulnerable households** to **promote sustainable livelihoods, economic security, and social inclusion** by adapting the national SAY framework to the state.

MOU WITH MIL

Sigma Advanced Systems Ltd has signed an **MoU** with **Munitions India Ltd (MIL)** for the **integration, indigenous manufacturing, and supply** of **155 mm artillery course-correction fuzes (CCF)**, along with **associated subsystems, components, and advanced defence technologies**.

HAL SIGNS MOA FOR HERITAGE SITES

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the **National Culture Fund (NCF)**, and the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** have signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** for the **conservation and development of heritage sites**.

HAL has approved **financial support** worth **₹23.60 crore** until the **FY29** to preserve these heritage sites, enhance visitor amenities, and **promote sustainable heritage tourism**.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL):

CMD – Kota Ravi

Headquarters – Bengaluru

Established in – 1940

CHHATTISGARH SIGNS MOU WITH ITE

The **Chhattisgarh government** has signed an MoU with the **Singapore-based Institute of Technical Education Services (ITE)** to **strengthen technical and vocational education and enhance skill development** in the state.

TATA POWER PARTNERS WITH OCEAN SUN

The **Tata Power Company Ltd** has partnered with **Norway-based** renewable energy technology company **Ocean Sun** to introduce **membrane-based floating solar technology** in India.

As a part of the partnership, a nearly **300 kilowatt-peak (kWp) floating solar pilot project** will be set up at the **Mulshi reservoir** in **Maharashtra**. This marks the **first installation of Ocean Sun in India**.

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS SIGNS MOU

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has signed an MoU with **Karmayogi Bharat** to develop and operate the **Tribal Affairs Capacity Building Platform** under the **iGOT Karmayogi framework**.

The initiative is a part of the **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan**, under which the ministry is institutionalising over **76,000 Adi Sewa Kendras (ASKs)** and a network of over **1.54 lakh AKVs** as **sustainable village-level platforms for facilitation, citizen engagement, and last-mile convergence**.

RENEW SIGNS MOU WITH MAHARASHTRA

ReNew Wind Energy Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **ReNew Energy Global PLC (ReNew)**, has signed an MoU with the **Maharashtra** government to **establish an integrated green data centre park** in the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)** with an investment of **₹70,000 crore**.

BHASHINI SIGNS MOU WITH MANIPUR

The **Digital India BHASHINI (BHASHINI) Division** has signed an MoU with the **Manipur government** to **advance multilingual AI and language technology**.

The agreement was signed during the **BHASHINI Rajyam Workshop** held in **Imphal, Manipur**. The collaboration aims to **improve language resources and explore solutions for multilingual digital services across the state**.

NCRTC SIGNS MOU WITH IGNCA

The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** has signed an MoU with the **New Delhi-based Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** to **promote Indian art, culture, and heritage** through cultural initiatives at **Namo Bharat stations**.

TDB SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH QNU LABS

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** has signed an agreement with the **Bengaluru-based QNu Labs Pvt Ltd** to provide financial support of **₹150 crore** under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.

The project, involving a total cost of **₹300 crore**, aims to develop an indigenous technology backbone for the **Quantum Secure and Sensing Networks of India (IQSN)**.

EPLANE COMPANY SIGNS MOU

The **ePlane Company**, operated by **Ubifly Technologies**, has signed an MoU with **Noida International Airport** to **develop ground infrastructure, regulatory procedures, and operational systems** for **electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft**.

MSDE SIGNS AGREEMENT TO UPGRADE ITIS

The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has signed a Shareholders' Agreement (SA) with **Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India** and the state governments of **Andhra Pradesh** and **Gujarat** to **upgrade 9 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** under the **PM Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme** with an investment of **₹440 crore**.

Under the agreement, **5 Government ITIs** in the **Surat cluster** of Gujarat will be upgraded with **₹240 crore**, and **4 Government ITIs** in the **Visakhapatnam cluster** of Andhra Pradesh will be upgraded with **₹200 crore**.

IBM SIGNS MOU WITH MEITY STARTUP HUB

International Business Machines (IBM) has signed an MoU with the **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** during the **IBM Think 2026 conference** in **Mumbai** to **strengthen the deep-tech startup ecosystem in India**.

The collaboration will leverage the portfolio of IBM, which includes **watsonx** (**an enterprise AI and data platform**), **Bob** (**an enterprise AI coding agent**), and **Sovereign Core** (**an AI-ready software stack**).

NTPC SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH AFRICA50

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd has signed a **cooperation agreement** with **Africa50**, an **African infrastructure investment organisation**, to **jointly develop commercially viable power projects** and **explore cross-border electricity trading opportunities across Africa**.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SIGNS MOU WITH NAR

The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** has signed an **MoU** with the **National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR)** to **establish uniform training standards, ensure quality administration, and facilitate systematic capacity building** across **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs)** nationwide.

INDIA AND CANADA SIGN AGREEMENTS

During the Team Canada Trade Mission at the **Canada-India Business Ceremony** in **Karnataka**, Indian and Canadian entities signed **34 commercial agreements and MoUs** worth nearly **CAD 300 million (₹1,800 crore)**.

Both countries aim to conclude negotiations for the proposed **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** by **December 2026** to **reduce trade barriers and improve market access**.

C-DAC SIGNS MOU WITH BANK OF INDIA

The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Bank of India (BOI)** to collaborate on **quantum financial innovation** and **drive the adoption of emerging technologies in the banking sector**.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC):

Director General – Magesh Ethirajan

Established in – 1988

INDIA SIGNS MOUS WITH MYANMAR

India and **Myanmar** have signed **5 MoUs** for the **Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) programme** in **Naypyitaw, Myanmar**.

The projects are valued at **$247,502** for the **FY27** under the **Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework**.

ICAR-CIRCOT SIGNS MOU WITH TRUST ARS RUBBER

The **ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (ICAR-CIRCOT)** has signed an **MoU** with **Trust ARS Rubber Pvt Ltd** for the **technology transfer** of "**Protective Gloves for Cotton Picking Workers**".

C-DOT SIGNS MOU WITH IIT BHU

The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** has signed an **MoU** with the **IIT (BHU)** in **Varanasi** to establish the **sixth Centre of Excellence (CoE)** of C-DOT at the premier institution of national importance.

EMBRAER SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH MAHINDRA

Brazil-based Embraer SA has signed an agreement with **Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd (MDSL)**, the defence arm of **Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M)**, to acquire a **51% controlling stake** in the **Indian aerospace company Novavayu Aerospace Ltd (NAL)**.

SKYROOT SIGNS CONTRACT

Skyroot Aerospace Pvt Ltd has signed a contract with the **US-based Reflect Orbital** for **two dedicated satellite launches**. The launches will use the **Vikram family of rockets** to **support the development of on-demand sunlight at night**.

INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA COMES INTO FORCE

The **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (IN-NZ FTA)** will officially **come into force** on **October 20, 2026**.

Under the agreement, India will gain **100% duty-free access** on all **8,284 tariff lines** to New Zealand. Additionally, India will **liberalise 70.03% of tariff lines**, covering **95% of bilateral trade value with key exclusions**.

INDIA SIGNS MOC WITH NEW ZEALAND

India has signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** with **New Zealand** to **enable the electronic exchange of origin data for trade in goods**.

The agreement aims to **strengthen customs coordination and facilitate bilateral trade** under the **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.

NSE IX SIGNS MOU WITH LSE

The **NSE International Exchange (NSE IX)** has signed an **MoU** with **London Stock Exchange plc (LSE)** to explore **cross-border listings, trading connectivity, and the development of new financial products, strengthening capital market cooperation between India and the UK**.

FINANCING AGREEMENT

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Government of **Japan** have signed financing agreements with the **Hyderabad-based AM Green Ammonia (India) Pvt Ltd**, established by the founders of the **Greenko Group**, to develop **one of the world's largest renewable-powered green ammonia plants** in **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**.

The plant will feature an annual production capacity of **1.1 million tonnes**. It is to be noted that this project marks the **first investment** under the **Action for Creating Energy Security for Long-term Resilience (ACCEL)** initiative launched by the ADB and Japan in **May 2026**.

MOES SIGNS MOU WITH ACSIR

The **Ministry of Earth Sciences** has signed an **MoU** with the **Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR)** to recognize all **10 MoES research institutes** as **AcSIR Associated Research Institutes (AcSIR-ARIs)**.

The initiative aims to **expand Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) research opportunities** in **atmospheric, ocean, polar, and other Earth system sciences**.

IICA SIGNS MOU WITH ARCS

The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)** has signed a **5-year MoU** with the **Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** in India to **strengthen industry linkages** for the **Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP)**.

VORAN SIGNS MOU WITH WS INNOVATION

The Indian aviation startup **VORAN Pvt Ltd** has signed an **MoU** with **Poland-based W&S Innovation - Aviation Artur Trendak** to explore technology collaboration in **gyroplane aviation, product development, and light aircraft manufacturing** in India.

TDB SIGNS AGREEMENT

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** has signed an agreement with **Manastu Space Technologies Pvt Ltd** to provide **financial support** of **₹116 crore** under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.

The project entails a **total cost** of **₹277.63 crore** and focuses on developing a **scalable, integrated green propulsion system for satellites and launch vehicles** across the **5 mN to 300 N thrust class**.

NSTFDC SIGNS MOU WITH NSDC AND SAIL

The **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)** under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has signed a tripartite MoU with the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and the **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)** to **promote livelihood generation, skill development, and entrepreneurship among Scheduled Tribe youth**.

Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL):

CMD – Ashok Kumar Panda

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1973

NAAS SIGNS MOU WITH CAST

The **National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)** has signed a **5-year MoU** with the **USA-based Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)** to **strengthen agricultural research, scientific collaboration, capacity development, and knowledge exchange**.

GOVT SIGNS MOU WITH UNESCO

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** and the **Ministry of Education** have signed an MoU with **UNESCO** to **promote clean sport values** among school-going children across the country.

The partnership will implement the "**Sports Values in Every Classroom Toolkit**" (**SViECT**) to embed essential ethical values. It is to be noted that the toolkit was initially developed for **students aged 8 to 12**.

BSE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH MMTC-PAMP

BSE Ltd (**formerly Bombay Stock Exchange**) has signed an agreement with **MMTC-PAMP**, **the only London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)-accredited gold and silver refiner in India**, to jointly develop and expand the **Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) market**.

It is to be noted that EGRs are **SEBI-regulated exchange-traded securities** that enable investors to hold gold electronically in demat accounts.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

Chairman – Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1988

MINISTRY OF CULTURE SIGNS MOU WITH BNF

The **Ministry of Culture** has signed an **MoU** with the **Bibliotheque nationale de France (BnF)** (National Library of France) under the '**Gyan Bharatam Mission**' to **enhance institutional cooperation in the preservation, digitisation, research, and dissemination of manuscript and documentary heritage**.

BHARATCLOUD SIGNS MOU

BharatCloud, an **Indian cloud infrastructure and IT services provider**, has signed an MoU with **Russia-based Tatarstan IT Park** to **boost cooperation in AI and cloud infrastructure**, alongside **enhancing investment and cross-business collaboration between India and Russia**.

NLCIL SIGNS MOU WITH IPICOL

NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) has signed **MoUs** with the **Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Ltd (IPICOL)** for an investment of **₹37,000 crore** to undertake **major power, coal gasification, and mineral-processing projects** in **Odisha**.

LTTS SIGNS CONTRACT WITH NOKIA

L&T Technology Services Ltd (LTTS) has signed a **5-year contract** with **Nokia** to **establish a dedicated Offshore Development Centre (ODC)** in India.

The ODC will support the **engineering, Research and Development (R&D), and global technology operations** of Nokia.

IIIT BANGALORE SIGNS MOU WITH AGH UNIVERSITY

The **International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B)** has signed an **MoU** with **Poland-based AGH University of Krakow** to **collaborate on academics and research in AI, Quantum Technologies, and other emerging fields**.

HQ IDS SIGNS MOU WITH SARVAM AI

The **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has signed a **5-year MoU** with **Sarvam AI**, an **Indian AI company**, to **develop and deploy indigenous AI applications across the Indian Armed Forces**.

The projects under the MoU will be executed by '**Chanakya**' of Sarvam AI. The initiative incorporates **Sarvam 105B**, an AI model developed using a **Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) architecture** that supports **22 Indian languages**.

REPORTS

OAG MEGAHUBS 2026

According to the "**OAG Megahubs 2026 report**" released by the **Official Airline Guide (OAG)**, the **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) of Delhi** is ranked **28th** globally.

Istanbul Airport (IST) of Turkiye is ranked as the **most connected international airport** with flight connections to **337 destinations**. It is followed by **London Heathrow Airport** and **Amsterdam Schiphol Airport**.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT INDEX

According to the **10th edition** of the "**Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI 2026)**: Insight Report September 2026" released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, **India is ranked 31st** with an **overall score of 4.42**.

Japan is ranked top with a **score of 5.27**, followed by the **USA, Spain, Australia, and France**. **Mali** is ranked at the **bottom** of the index with a score of **2.75**.

World Economic Forum (WEF):

Founder – Peter Brabeck

President – Borge Brende

Headquarters – Cologny, Switzerland

Established in – 1971

REPORT BY WHO

According to a report titled "**Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Schools 2015-25**" released jointly by the **WHO and UNICEF**, **India has the highest number of children globally without access to sanitation services**, with **50 million**. This accounts for about **20% of the 244 million children globally** who lack such services as of 2025.

Based on current trends, **global projections for 2030** estimate that **84%** of children will have access to **water services** (10% with no service), **81%** will have **sanitation access** (7% with no service), and **79%** will have **hygiene access** (12% with no service).

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2027

According to the "**World University Rankings 2027**" released by the **Times Higher Education (THE)** during the **World Academic Summit** hosted by the **University of Cape Town, South Africa**, the **IISc Bengaluru** is the **highest-ranked institution in India**, ranking **254th** worldwide with an **overall score of 57**.

The **University of Oxford (UK)** is **ranked top** for the **11th consecutive year**, followed by the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)**. **Princeton University (USA)** and **Stanford University (USA)** are **jointly ranked third**, while the **University of Cambridge (UK)** is ranked fifth.

TRIAL INDEX RELEASED

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has released the **Sub-Sectoral Trial Index of Services Production (ISP)** for **July 2026**, utilizing **2024-25 as the base year** to monitor **19 service sub-sectors**.

The ISP data indicates that **17 out of the 19 sub-sectors** achieved **positive growth** in July 2026, with **10 sub-sectors** recording **double-digit growth** compared to July 2025. Most categories recorded positive **Year-on-Year (YoY) growth**, with the exceptions of **Air Transport and Repair Services**.

ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIES 2024-25

According to the results of the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024-25** released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, the **manufacturing Gross Value Added (GVA) increased by 9.59%** in **FY25**. **Total employment** in the sector **grew by 7.19%** to reach **2.1 crore**.

The report states that the **total emoluments** paid to the workforce **grew by 12.08%** compared to FY24. **Tamil Nadu** ranks top in terms of **industrial establishments** with **41,221 units**. The **top five states** account for **53.3%** of the total industrial establishments in India.

NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL SURVEY

The **National Statistics Office** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has released the key findings of the **National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)**, marking the **first-ever nationwide survey on household travel patterns in India**.

According to the survey, **66.4% of students** aged 6 years and above **travel more than 1 km daily** to attend educational institutions (65.6% in rural areas and 68.1% in urban areas). **Walking (37%)** is the **primary mode of transport for students**.

The survey reveals that **42.6% of workers** use **two-wheelers** as the **primary mode of transport** for commuting to fixed workplaces. A worker incurred an **average monthly expenditure of ₹785** for commuting to a fixed workplace.

LIVING PLANET REPORT

According to the "**2026 Living Planet Report (LPR): The Science of Hope**" released by the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** in partnership with the **Zoological Society of London**, an average of **73% of monitored wildlife populations globally declined** over the **50-year period** between **1970 and 2022**.

The report states that **freshwater wildlife populations** witnessed the sharpest average decline at **85%**, while **habitat loss and degradation** emerged as the **most frequently reported threats**. Region-wise, **Latin America and the Caribbean** reported the steepest decline in monitored wildlife populations at **95%**.

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2026

According to the "**Henley Passport Index 2026 Global Rankings**" released by **Henley & Partners**, **Singapore is ranked first** as the **world's most powerful passport** with **visa-free access to 193 destinations**.

Japan, the UAE, and South Korea share **second place**, while **Sweden** is **ranked third**. **India** is ranked **84th** on the index with **visa-free access to 55 destinations**, sharing its rank with **Algeria and Mauritania**.

WTO GLOBAL TRADE OUTLOOK

According to the "**Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Update: October 2026**" report released by the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, the **global merchandise trade growth forecast has been raised to 3.9%** for **Calendar Year 2026 (CY26)**, **from its previous estimate of 1.9%**.

The report projects **global trade growth at 4.1% for CY27**. Additionally, the **global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** is projected at **2.6% in CY26** and **2.9% in CY27**.

World Trade Organization (WTO):

Director General – Ngozi Okonjo Iweala

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Established in – 1995

Members – 166

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2026

According to the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026** titled "**No Security Without Food Security**" released by **Germany-based Welthungerhilfe (WHH)**, in collaboration with the **Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV)** and Helvetas, **India is ranked 100th** with a **score of 24.1**, placing it in the "**serious**" hunger category.

Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, and Croatia are among the **24 countries that recorded scores below 5.0**. Moldova and Mongolia secured the 25th and 26th positions respectively, while **Somalia is ranked least at 122nd**.

GLOBAL EDUCATION MONITORING REPORT

UNESCO has released its **2026 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Gender Report** titled "**Gender equity in access to education**" to mark the **International Day of the Girl Child (11 October 2026)**.

The report states that **between 2000 and 2024**, the **share of countries with fewer than nine girls per ten boys enrolled** declined from **15% to 2%** in primary education, and from **18% to 5%** in upper-secondary education.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Director General – Khaled El

Headquarters – Paris, France

Established in – 1945

Members – 194

DATA ON PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

According to the **18th Monthly Bulletin** of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **National Statistical Office** for **September 2026**, **India's overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** **increased by 0.2 percentage points year-on-year to 55.5%**, compared to 55.3% in September 2025.

The **overall Unemployment Rate (UR)** **declined by 0.2 percentage points year-on-year to 5.0%**. The **overall Female LFPR** reached **34.6% in September 2026**, which is **lower than the 34.8% recorded in the previous month**.

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched the "**World Development Report (WDR) 2026: The Promise of AI**" report of the **World Bank Group** at an event in **New Delhi**.

The event was organized by the **IndiaAI Mission** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** in collaboration with the **World Bank Group**. The report recommends an "**Adopt, Adapt and Advance**" **approach**, **prioritizing affordable AI solutions**.

EMISSIONS GAP REPORT 2026

According to the **17th edition** of the **Emissions Gap Report (EGR) 2026** titled "**The Point of Return**" released by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)**, **temporarily exceeding the 1.5 °C global warming limit** is unavoidable without **urgent reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.

The report states that **global GHG emissions** reached a total of **58.4 gigatons of CO2 equivalent (Gt CO_2e)** in **2025**, reflecting a **decline of just 0.1 Gt CO_2e from 2024 levels**.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

Executive Director – Inger Andersen

Headquarters – Nairobi, Kenya

Established in – 1972

INTERNATIONAL

NEW KING IN UGANDA

Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma, a **former television news anchor**, has been crowned as the **13th King (Omukama)** of the **Tooro Kingdom** in **Uganda**.

ASEAN-INDIA ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

India has participated in the **14th East Asia Summit - Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM)** and the **23rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Economic Ministers Consultation** held in **Manila, Philippines**.

The Indian delegation for these high-level meetings was led by **Nitin Kumar Yadav**. It is to be noted that the **bilateral trade** between India and the ASEAN region reached a total of **$128.38 billion** in **2025-26**.

FIRST WOMAN PM

Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri, belonging to the **Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM)**, has been appointed as the **Prime Minister (PM) of Morocco** by **King Mohammed VI**.

She becomes the **first woman** to hold the office of PM in the country, succeeding **Aziz Akhannouch**.

INDIA AT IWC-70 MEETING

India has reaffirmed its commitment to the **conservation of whales and other cetaceans** at the **70th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC-70)** held in **Hobart, Australia**.

The meeting coincided with the **80th anniversary** of the signing of the **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling**, which is the international treaty for whale conservation. It is to be noted that **Dr Urbain Brito** of Benin was elected as the **Chair of the IWC-70**, and **Anne-Marie Svoboda** of Netherlands was appointed as the **Vice-Chair**.

The IWC-70 adopted the **"Hobart Declaration"** by consensus and passed resolutions to address **fish-maw trade-related cetacean bycatch, vessel strikes, and cetacean strandings**. India advocated for the implementation of **science-based conservation strategies** during the proceedings.

81ST SESSION OF UNGA

The **81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 81)** was held at the UN Headquarters in **New York, USA**, presided over by **Khalilur Rahman**, the **Foreign Minister of Bangladesh**.

The session was held under the theme **"Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations That Delivers for All"**, with the Indian delegation led by **Union Minister S Jaishankar**.

The assembly unanimously adopted its first-ever **declaration on rising sea-levels** to provide assurances to **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** and low-lying coastal countries. During the session, the **UN Women** launched a new digital, innovation, and AI hub focused on **gender equality**.

Union Minister S Jaishankar signed the **UN Convention against Cybercrime**, which serves as the **first comprehensive international treaty** focused on cybercrime. It is to be noted that India has been officially placed on the **"Strategic Partner Stream"** in the **Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)**.

Furthermore, **India and Liberia** jointly launched a new international initiative named **"The Group of Friends on Safety & Security of Shipping & Seafarers (GoFonS4)"** to focus on the safety and security of commercial shipping and maritime personnel.

INDIA AT COFO 28

India has highlighted that its **forest and tree cover has expanded** to **82.74 million hectares**, accounting for **25.17%** of the geographical area of the country, at the **28th Session** of the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)** held in **Rome, Italy**.

The **biennial session** of COFO 28, bringing together **128 member countries**, was held alongside the **10th World Forest Week** under the theme "**Forests for food, resilience and prosperity**". The session was chaired by **Pierre Taty** of the Republic of the Congo.

G20 TRADE MINISTERS MEETING

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has attended the **Group of Twenty (G20) Trade Ministers' Meeting** held in **Milwaukee, USA**.

The **Joint Ministerial Statement** was released by the **Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR)** and was signed by **15 participating countries**, including **India and the USA**.

S JAISHANKAR VISITS AFRICA

Union Minister Dr S Jaishankar has visited **3 African nations: Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ethiopia**, to deepen bilateral relations in trade, investment, and infrastructure development.

During his visit to Ghana, **two major MoUs were signed** in the fields of agriculture and zoological research. In Côte d'Ivoire, he held talks with Minister **Niale Kaba**, focusing on cooperation in trade, infrastructure, agriculture, and healthcare. Additionally, India will organise the next edition of the **Jaipur Artificial Limb Fitment camp** in **Ethiopia**.

SWISS PRESIDENT VISITS INDIA

Swiss President Guy Parmelin has visited **India** at the invitation of **PM Narendra Modi** to **strengthen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and technology** under the **India - European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**.

Both leaders attended the **2nd India-EFTA Prosperity Summit** at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, marking the **anniversary** of the India-EFTA TEPA which came into force on **October 01, 2025**. They signed **5 key agreements** to boost cooperation in **mobility, science, and technology**.

EAST ASIA SUMMIT ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING

Union Minister Shripad Yesso Naik has attended the **20th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting (EAS EMM)** held in **Manila, Philippines**.

During the summit, India welcomed the **ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2026-2030**. India also emphasized cooperation under the **ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026-2030**, focusing on the **ASEAN Power Grid, regional transmission, multilateral power trade, clean energy, and energy security**.

PAKISTAN TO CHAIR BOARDS

Pakistan has been named the **incoming chair** of the **Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **World Bank Group** for **2027**, during their **annual meetings** held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

Ahad Khan Cheema, the **World Bank Governor from Pakistan**, was designated as the incoming chair.

MISSION IN COSTA RICA

The **Ministry of External Affairs** has operationalised the **resident diplomatic mission of India** in **San Jose**, the **capital of Costa Rica**, effective from **October 10, 2026**. The mission was established to **expand the diplomatic presence of India in Central America**.

WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT

The **World Health Summit (WHS 2026)** was held in **Berlin, Germany**, under the theme "**From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health**", led by WHS President **Professor Axel R Pries**. The main program of the summit was structured around **6 central topics**.

During the event, the **WHO** launched the **Hub 2030 Strategy** to help countries **detect and assess emerging health threats within 24 hours**. **Bangladesh** and the **European Investment Bank** announced a **€250 million women's health programme**, while **Germany** pledged **€10 million** for **maternal and child health**.

World Health Organisation (WHO):

Director General – Dr Tedros Adhanom

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Established in – 1948

European Investment Bank (EIB):

President – Nadia Calvino

Headquarters – Kirchberg, Luxembourg

Established in – 1958

TYPHOON CHAMPI

Typhoon Champi has **swept past** the **northeastern coast** of **Taiwan**, causing **widespread disruption, power outages, and infrastructure damage**.

CURRENCY SWAP FACILITY

The **central government** has approved the **rollover** of a **₹3,000 crore currency swap facility** to **Maldives** under the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Currency Swap Framework**.

The financial arrangement aims to **support the financial stability** of Maldives and address its **short-term liquidity requirements**.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

The **69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC)** was held in **Cape Town, South Africa**, under the presidency of **Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane**, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces of South Africa.

The event was conducted under the theme "**Strengthening International Law and Parliamentary Democracy in a Changing World Order: Commonwealth Leadership**". The Indian parliamentary delegation to the conference was led by **Harivansh Narayan Singh**, the **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha**.

During the event, the Commonwealth Parliamentarian Awards were presented to various individuals. **Ruth Forrest MLC** received the **Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year Award**, **Dr Angelo Farrugia** won the **Parliamentarian Lifetime Achievement Award**, and **Sugath Wasantha de Silva** bagged the **New Parliamentarian Award**. It is to be noted that the **Parliament of Canada** will host the **70th CPC** in **2027**.

DIGITAL STRATEGY

The **World Bank Group (WBG)** has launched its **first comprehensive digital strategy** at the inaugural **Global AI and Digital Summit 2026** in **Seoul, South Korea**, aiming to **expand digital connectivity, create jobs, and strengthen AI readiness in developing countries**.

Additionally, WBG has announced the **AI Infrastructure and Readiness Initiative**, focusing initially on **Africa and Latin America**, in partnership with knowledge partners **Cassava Technologies and NVIDIA** to **expand affordable computing access**.

25TH SCO MEETING

The **25th Meeting** of the **Council of Heads of Government (CHG)** of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was held in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**, under the chairmanship of **Qohir Rasulzoda**, the PM of Tajikistan.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted that **India will host the 1st SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum** by the **end of 2026**. The meeting also resulted in the implementation of the **Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation (PMTEC) Action Plan** for **2026-2030**.

DEFENCE

INDIA-KOREA DEFENCE MEETING

The **10th India-Republic of Korea Joint Committee Meeting (JCM)** on **Defence Industries and Logistics Cooperation** was held in **New Delhi**.

During the meeting, both nations **reviewed ongoing bilateral cooperation** in defence industries and logistics and discussed avenues to **expand defence ties**.

EXERCISE VARUNA

The **24th edition** of the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the **Indian Navy (IN)** and the **French Navy** named "**VARUNA**" was conducted at the **Toulon Naval Base** in the **Mediterranean Sea, France**.

The IN was represented by **INS Trishul (F43)**, a modernised **Talwar-class guided-missile stealth frigate**, while the French Navy participated with multiple frontline units.

EXERCISE KAZIND

The **9th edition** of the **joint military exercise** named "**KAZIND-2026**" between **India** and **Kazakhstan** is held in **Oskemen, Kazakhstan**.

The Indian contingent has **60 personnel**, led by a **battalion of the Garhwal Rifles**, while the Kazakhstan contingent is represented by 60 personnel primarily from its **Land Forces**.

EXERCISE AIME 2026

INS Sahyadri and **INS Kulish** have participated in the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Maritime Exercise (AIME 2026)** held in **the Philippines**. The exercise was conducted under the theme "**Anchored in Trust, United at Sea**".

EXERCISE MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN

The Joint Military Exercise between **India** and the **UAE** named '**MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026**' has commenced at the **Foreign Training Node** in **Uttarakhand**.

The Indian contingent is composed of troops from a **Bhairav Battalion**, while the **UAE Army** is represented by a **Mountain Infantry Battalion**. A total of **92 personnel** are participating in the exercise.

MOD SIGNS CONTRACT WITH BRAHMOS AEROSPACE

The **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract worth **₹661.5 crore** with **BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd (BAPL)** in **New Delhi** for the procurement of **BrahMos Fire Control Systems (FCS)** and **Launchers** for the **Indian Navy vessels**.

The acquisition is made under the "**Buy (Indian-IDDM)**" (**Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured**) category. It is to be noted that the equipment to be supplied must have a **minimum indigenous content of 68%**.

DIGITAL INITIATIVES FOR DEFENCE ACCOUNTS

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched several digital and financial management initiatives during the **279th Annual Day** of the **Defence Accounts Department (DAD)** held at **DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi**.

As part of the event, the **System for Accounting and Knowledge Sharing Management (SAKSHAM)**, which serves as the **bill audit and payment system** of the DAD, was integrated with the **Indian Army Financial Information System (IAFIS)**.

The **Treasury Single Account (TSA)** system was operationalised through the **Payment Routing and Integrated System Management (PRISM)** platform and integrated with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) e-KUBER** system. A revamped **National Compilation System (NCS)** was also introduced to function as a **unified platform for the accounting and compilation of overall defence expenditure**.

INS SURYA LAUNCHED

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched "**INS Surya**" (**FSS-1**), the **first indigenously designed and built Fleet Support Ship (FSS)** of the Indian Navy (IN), at **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)** in **Visakhapatnam**.

He also initiated the **keel laying of FSS-5**, marking the start of construction for the fifth ship in the series. Infrastructure at HSL has been upgraded with a a **300-tonne Goliath crane**. These facilities will support the construction of vessels up to **45,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT)**.

Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL):

CMD – Cmde Girideep Singh (Retd)

Headquarters – Visakhapatnam

Established in – 1941

HAL TO ACQUIRE FULL STAKE IN HATSOFF

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has signed a **share transfer agreement** to acquire a **50% stake** in the **Helicopter Academy to Train by Simulation Flying (HATSOFF)** Helicopter Training Private Limited.

With this, **HATSOFF** will become a **100% wholly-owned subsidiary** of HAL, giving the latter **complete management control**.

KAVERI DRY ENGINE TESTED IN RUSSIA

The **Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)** in **Bengaluru**, under the **DRDO**, has developed the **Kaveri Dry Engine (KDE)**, also known as the **Kaveri Derivative Engine**.

The KDE has successfully completed **high-altitude test facility evaluations** and flight trials in **Russia** for the '**Ghatak**' **Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV)**.

EXERCISE KONKAN 2026

The annual bilateral maritime exercise between the **Indian Navy (IN)** and the **British Royal Navy (BRN)** named "**KONKAN 2026**" is held off the coast of **Plymouth, UK**.

INS Trishul, a frontline **Talwar-class guided-missile stealth frigate** of the IN, and **HMS Richmond**, a **Type 23 anti-submarine warfare frigate** of the BRN, participated in the exercise.

INDIGENOUS MILITARY-GRADE ROV FOR NAVY

Kochi-based **EyeROV (IROV Technologies Pvt Ltd)** has delivered two "**EyeROV TROUT**" **military-grade underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) systems** to the **Indian Navy (IN)**. This marks the **first-ever delivery of an indigenously manufactured military-grade ROV** in India.

The system is designed and developed within the country to meet the technical requirements of naval operations. It is to be noted that the current supply is part of a **larger contract for five TROUT systems** commissioned by the IN.

NGOPV SHREYAS LAUNCHED

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has launched the **first Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)** named "**Yard 3040 (Shreyas)**" in **Kolkata**.

The vessel, measuring **113 metres in length** and **14.6 metres in width**, has a **displacement of 3,000 tonnes**. It is capable of reaching a **maximum speed of 23 knots** and offers an **endurance range of 8,500 nautical miles** at a cruising speed of 14 knots.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE):

Chairman & MD – Commodore PR Hari (Retd.)

Headquarters – Kolkata

Established in – 1960

SAREX 2026

Union Minister of State Sanjay Seth has inaugurated the **12th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026)** organised by the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** off the **Paradip coast** in **Odisha**.

The exercise witnessed the participation of **32 observers from 30 countries** to **bolster international cooperation and operational synergy in maritime safety**.

INS MANGROL COMMISSIONED

The **Indian Navy** has commissioned '**INS Mangrol**', its **third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, at the **Naval Dockyard** in **Mumbai**.

The vessel was built by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)** in **Kochi** with **over 80% indigenous content**, including the **indigenous Abhay hull-mounted sonar**.

DRDO TESTS HAPS AND PARACHUTE

DRDO has successfully conducted the **flight trial** of an indigenous **High-Altitude Platform (HAPS)** aimed at creating a **long-endurance stratospheric aerial surveillance platform**.

The HAPS was developed by the **Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE)** in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. During the trial, the platform reached **21 km Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL)** and **maintained 20 km AMSL for over 30 minutes**.

Additionally, DRDO has successfully conducted the **maiden live jump trial** of the indigenous **Advanced High-Altitude Parachute (AHAP)** at **Nyoma (Mudh Drop Zone)** in **Ladakh**, demonstrating its efficacy and tactical employability in extremely high-altitude terrain.

INDIAN ARMY LAUNCHES BHARAT RICE

Union Minister Rajnath Singh and **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** have presided over the launch of '**Bharat Rice**' by the **Indian Army** in **New Delhi** to **improve the quality of daily rations and streamline frontline logistics for defense forces**.

During the event, a **five-year MoU** was also signed between the **Indian Army** and the **Food Corporation of India**, acting as a **strategic force multiplier**.

EXERCISE INDRA 2026

The **bilateral naval exercise** "**Exercise INDRA 2026**" between the **Indian Navy** and the **Russian Federation Navy** has commenced at **Vladivostok** and the adjacent waters of the **Sea of Japan**.

The **Indian Navy** is represented by '**INS Sahyadri**', an **indigenous Shivalik-class guided-missile stealth multi-role frigate**, while the **Russian Federation Navy** is represented by the **Hero of the Russian Federation Aldar Tsydenzhapov**, a **Steregushchiy-class corvette from the Pacific Fleet of Russia**.

CONTRACTS BY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The **Ministry of Defence** has signed contracts worth **₹4,106 crore** to procure a dedicated **communication satellite** (**GSAT-7C**) for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Varunastra Heavy Weight Torpedoes** for the **Indian Navy**.

The **₹2,563 crore contract** for the GSAT-7C satellite was signed with **New Space India Ltd**, while the **₹1,543 crore contract** for the Varunastra torpedoes was inked with **Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)**.

INS SAMARTHAK COMMISSIONED

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan has commissioned '**INS Samarthak**', the **Indian Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)**, at the naval base in **Karwar, Karnataka**.

Constructed by **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, the vessel is the **first of four planned Multi-Purpose Vessels** for the Indian Navy. It features **over 75% indigenous content**. The crest of the ship **features an Indian elephant emerging from the waves**, with the official motto "**Victory is Our Sole Aim**".

Larsen & Toubro (L&T):

MD & CEO – SN Subrahmanyan

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1946

INDIA-MONGOLIA DEFENCE MEETING

The **14th Joint Working Group meeting** between the **Defence Ministries** of **India** and **Mongolia** was held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of both nations to strengthening their **bilateral defence partnership**.

EXERCISE AUSTRAHIND

The **5th edition** of the India-Australia joint military exercise "**AUSTRAHIND 2026**" has commenced at the **Foreign Training Node** in **Thiruvananthapuram**.

120 personnel each from the **Indian Army** and the **Australian Army** participated in the exercise. The **Indian contingent** comprises troops from the **Garhwal Rifles**, while the **Australian Army contingent** comprises troops from the **13 Brigade**.

DRDO TESTS QKD PLATFORM

DRDO has successfully configured and tested its **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) platform** on the live network of the **Proof & Experimental Establishment (PXE)** in **Chandipur, Odisha**.

The QKD platform aims to **secure real-time observations and telemetry** associated with artillery and armoured weapon trials, strengthening the **quantum-secured communication capabilities of India**.

ICG INDUCTS INDIGENOUS HELICOPTER

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has inducted an **indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK-III** (designated **CG 875**) into the **Coast Guard Region (West)** at the Coast Guard Air Station (ICGAS) in **Ratnagiri, Maharashtra**.

The helicopter, manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**, is equipped with a **cabin-mounted 12.7 millimetre (mm) Heavy Machine Gun (HMG)** for target neutralization.

NAGASTRA-1R MUNITIONS FOR INDIAN ARMY

Solar Defence and Aerospace Ltd (SDAL), a subsidiary of **Solar Industries India Ltd**, has delivered **450 Nagastra-1R loitering munitions** to the **Indian Army (IA)**.

CONTRACT FOR LLLR-I RADAR

The **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract with **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** to procure the **Improved Low Level Light Weight Radar (LLLR-I) system** at a cost of **₹770 crore**.

The LLLR-I system can **detect and track fighter-size targets and drones**, alongside an additional feature for **prioritizing aerial targets**.

SIMBEX 2026

The **33rd edition** of the bilateral maritime exercise "**SIMBEX-2026**" between **India** and **Singapore** is held in **Visakhapatnam**.

INS Nilgiri and **INS Kamorta** of the **Indian Navy** and the **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)** ship **RSS Supreme** participated in the exercise.

IBSAMAR IX

INS Tarkash of the **Indian Navy** has participated in the **9th edition** of the **India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime (IBSAMAR IX) Exercise 2026**. The maritime exercise was hosted by **South Africa** at **Simon's Town in the Western Cape**.

DEFENCE DRONE HUB

Union Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the '**Greater Than Us**' fundraising campaign of the **IIT Kanpur**, **targeting $1 billion by March 2029** to **strengthen research, innovation, and technological infrastructure**.

The **IIT Kanpur** has also announced plans to establish **a defence drone hub in partnership with the Ministry of Defence to indigenise critical components and reduce dependence on imports**.

INDIGENOUS ARMOUR PANELS BY DRDO

The **DRDO** has developed **indigenous armour panels** through its **Pune-based Research and Development Establishment (Engineers)** that are **20% lighter than existing systems**.

These armour panels are designed to **withstand 30 millimetre (mm) armour-piercing (AP) ammunition** and meet the **STANAG 4569 Level 6 protection standard**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman – Rajesh Kumar Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1958

INDIGENOUS AVIATION GUN SYSTEM

The **Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)**, a laboratory of the **DRDO**, has shortlisted **SSS Defence** and **Kalyani Group** as **Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPPs)**.

The partnership aims to develop and manufacture the **first indigenous 20 mm aviation gun and turret system** for the **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-IV (Rudra)** and **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand** of **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**.

JOINT TRAINING INITIATIVE

The **Ministry of Home Affairs** and the **Indian Army** have launched a **joint training initiative** to strengthen **Civil Defence preparedness** in India.

The **first phase** of the programme aims to train **600 Civil Defence Master Trainers** from **12 States and Union Territories** including Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, with each region nominating 50 participants. The initiative adopts a structured **Master Trainer Model**, wherein each master trainer will subsequently instruct **100 Civil Defence Volunteers**.

DAC APPROVES DEFENCE ACQUISITIONS

The **Defence Acquisition Council**, **chaired by Union Minister Rajnath Singh**, has accorded **Acceptance of Necessity** to capital acquisition proposals worth about **₹2.12 lakh crore** for the Defence Forces.

Under this, the **Indian Army** will procure **High Mobility Vehicles (HMV)**, the **Indian Navy** will get the **Active Offboard Decoy System (AODS)**, while the **Indian Air Force** will procure **Mobile X-Band Doppler Weather Radar Systems**. Out of the total AoNs accorded, **82%** of the procurements will be sourced from the **Indian industry**.

LAND WARFARE DOCTRINE RELEASED

Union Minister Rajnath Singh has released the **Land Warfare Doctrine** during the **Army Commanders' Conference** in **New Delhi**.

The **revised doctrine, replacing the December 2018 version**, provides a framework to **prepare the Indian Army for evolving challenges in future conflicts by integrating advanced technologies**.

INS SRISHTI LAUNCHED

The **Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL)** has launched "**INS Srishti**" (Yard 1283), the **4th Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)** for the **Indian Navy**, at the **Vaddem facility** of GSL in **Goa**.

The broader NGOPV contract encompasses a **total of 11 vessels**. Under this contract, GSL is constructing **7 ships** in Goa, while **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** in **Kolkata** is manufacturing the remaining **4 vessels**.

EXERCISE GARUDA SHAKTI

The **11th edition** of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise named "**Garuda Shakti**" has commenced in **Banyuwangi, Indonesia**.

The **Indian contingent** comprises troops from the **Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**, while the **Indonesian contingent** consists of personnel from the **Indonesian Special Forces**.

DRDO DEVELOPS PORTABLE ELINT MODULES

The **DRDO** has initiated the development of **man-portable Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) modules** through its **Hyderabad-based Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL)**.

These modules are designed to **detect, intercept, and analyse signals emitted by enemy radars and other electronic systems**.

INDIAN NAVY AUXILIARY FLEET EXPANSION

The **Indian Navy** has marked its **indigenous auxiliary fleet expansion** with a triple ceremony featuring the **launch of Yard 142** and the keel laying of **Yards 144 and 148**.

Yard 142 marks the launch of the **first 300-tonne Sullage Barge** under this production line. Yard 144 marks the commencement of structural assembly for the **third Sullage Barge** of its class, and Yard 148 marks the assembly start for the **first Bottom Opening Dumb Barge**.

The joint ceremony took place at the facility of **Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd** in **Thane, Maharashtra**, an **MSME shipyard** collaborating with an Indian Ship Design firm and the **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)**.

BUSINESS

NTPC SIGNS JV AGREEMENT WITH EDF

NTPC Ltd (formerly National Thermal Power Corporation) has signed a **50:50 Joint Venture (JV) agreement** with **EDF Power Solutions India Pvt Ltd** to **develop, own, and operate low-carbon energy projects across India and neighboring countries**.

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC):

CMD – Gurdeep Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1975

CCI APPROVES NEW ACQUISITIONS

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of **equity share capital** in **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Ltd** by the **France-based BNP Paribas Cardif**.

In other news, the CCI has authorised the **indirect acquisition** of a **majority stake** and voting rights in **Everllence SE** (including its subsidiaries) by funds managed or advised by **Bain Capital Investors, LLC**. This acquisition involves a share transfer from **Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft (Volkswagen)** to the funds of Bain Capital Investors, LLC.

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

Chairperson – Ravneet Kaur

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2003

COE AT SASTRA UNIVERSITY

Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) has established a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** at the **Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) Deemed University** in **Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu**.

The facility is dedicated to the domains of **cybersecurity and digital forensics** to advance research and technical proficiency in these sectors.

CCI APPROVALS FOR JSW AND CONCESSOC

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has **approved the internal restructuring** of the **JSW Group**, involving **JSW Steel Ltd (JSW Steel)**, **JSW Projects Ltd (JSW Projects)**, and **BMM Ispat Ltd (BMM)**.

Additionally, the **CCI** has **authorized the acquisition** of a **100% shareholding** in **Vishavari Tollway Pvt Ltd** and **9 Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** that operate road assets in India by **Concessoc 41 SAS**.

HCLTECH PARTNERS WITH ANTHROPIC

HCLTech has signed a **global partnership agreement** with **Anthropic**, an **AI company**, to **expand the deployment of agentic AI** across enterprises, with a focus on **safety, cybersecurity, and governance**.

HCL Technologies Ltd (HCLTech):

Founder – Shiv Nadar

Chairperson – Roshni Nadar Malhotra

Headquarters – Noida

Established in – 1991

BHARAT FORGE SIGNS CONTRACT

Bharat Forge Ltd has signed a **long-term contract** with **Pratt & Whitney Canada**, a **subsidiary of RTX Corporation**, for the supply of **mission-critical aerospace engine components**.

The components will be **manufactured locally** at the advanced aerospace facility of Bharat Forge Ltd in India.

PM INDIA PARTNERS WITH LITTERATI

Philip Morris India Trading Pvt Ltd (PM India) has partnered with **Litterati**, a **global civic technology company**, to launch the **first phase** of a **12-month anti-littering initiative** named '**Project Unmesha**' in **Delhi**.

Under the project, **community science** and **AI-enabled image recognition** will be used by **Litterati** to **identify litter hotspots**, **map litter composition**, and **establish scientific baselines**.

INDIGO SIGNS FINANCING DEAL WITH CITI

IndiGo, **the largest carrier in the country**, has signed a **$328 million financing deal** with **Citi** to buy **8 narrow-body planes** from **Airbus**.

This transaction marks the **world's first aviation financing** insured by **Credendo**, a **Belgian export credit agency (ECA)**. It is also the **maiden ECA-backed aircraft financing** structured through the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.

DIXON TECHNOLOGIES FORMS JV WITH GEMTEK

Dixon Technologies Ltd has signed a **Joint Venture (JV) agreement** with **Taiwan-based Gemtek Technology Co Ltd** to **manufacture and supply telecom and optical connectivity products in India**.

Under the agreement, the former will hold a **60% stake**, while **Gemtek Technology** will hold the remaining 40%.

AEL PARTNERS WITH JABIL INC

Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) has signed a non-binding agreement with **USA-based Jabil Inc.** to establish a **50:50 Joint Venture (JV)** for **manufacturing AI and data centre equipment** in India.

It is to be noted that the **data centre capacity in India** is projected to reach **5-8 GigaWatts (GW)** by **2030**.

RENEW ENERGY SECURES DEBT FACILITY

ReNew Energy Global plc has secured a debt facility of **$100 million (₹955 crore)** from **FMO**, the **Dutch entrepreneurial development bank**, to finance its **renewable energy projects under construction**.

CAREEDGE SELLS STAKE IN SUBSIDIARY

CareEdge Ratings (CARE Ratings Ltd) has signed share purchase and shareholder agreements to sell a **19.8% stake** in its subsidiary, **CareEdge Global International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Ltd (CGIL)**, to the **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **NSE IFSC (NSEIX)**.

SCIENCE

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY AT NIT SRINAGAR

The **National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar** has become the **first NIT in India** to establish a dedicated campus-based astronomical observatory named the **NIT Srinagar Observatory for Astronomy and Astrophysics (NSOAA)**.

The facility is equipped with a **14-inch Celestron C14 EdgeHD aplanatic Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope**. It was inaugurated to promote observational astronomy, astrophysics research, student training, and public outreach.

SPACEX LAUNCHES 130 PAYLOADS

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) has successfully launched **130 payloads** into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** as part of the **Transporter-18 smallsat rideshare mission**. The launch was carried out using a **Falcon 9 rocket** from the **Vandenberg Space Force Base** in **California, USA**.

The mission included the launch of **'MVP'**, the inaugural in-orbit experiment under **Google Project Suncatcher**. It is to be noted that Project Suncatcher is a space research programme announced in **2025** to facilitate the development of a **full orbital data centre**.

NETWORKED ORBITAL DATA CENTRE

Hyderabad-based TakeMe2Space is set to launch the **first networked orbital data centre mission of India** in **late 2028**. The mission will be launched aboard the **Falcon 9 rocket** of **SpaceX**.

It is to be noted that the organization has signed a **launch service agreement** with **RIDE! Space**, a **France-based** space technology firm specializing in launch mission management. The company plans to establish a **constellation of 6 satellites** over the following years to facilitate its orbital data operations.

FREE-SPACE QUANTUM LINK

QNu Labs, in collaboration with the **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N)** and the **IIT Gandhinagar**, has successfully demonstrated the **first free-space Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link of India**. The link is established over a distance of **5.56 km**.

The demonstration utilized a **Pointing, Acquisition and Tracking (PAT) system** to maintain stable communication, achieving a **Quantum Bit Error Rate (QBER) of less than 5%**. It is to be noted that secure encryption keys were generated at a rate of **230-260 bits per second (bps)** and were integrated with the **Vedic Kavach platform**.

ISRO CONDUCTS GAGANYAAN TESTS

ISRO has successfully completed a series of **Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM) separation tests** at the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** in **Thiruvananthapuram**.

The tests validated the design adequacy of the separation systems ahead of the **first uncrewed mission** "**Gaganyaan-1 (G1)**" which is scheduled to carry the **Vyommitra half-humanoid**.

NEW POTATO VARIETY

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Potato Research Institute (ICAR-CPRI)** has developed a **nutrient-rich purple potato variety** named "**Kufri Jamunia**". It is enriched with **Vitamin C, anthocyanins, carotenoids, zinc, and iron** to improve nutritional security and combat hidden hunger.

It is to be noted that the institute has also developed "**Kufri Neelkanth**", the **first purple-skinned specialty potato variety** known for high antioxidant content, and "**Kufri Manik**", a **deep red-skinned potato variety** with yellow flesh rich in anthocyanins, zinc, and iron.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):

Director – Dr. Mangi Lal Jat

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1929

QUANTUM RESEARCH LAB INAUGURATED

Samsung Semiconductor India Research has inaugurated a **Quantum Research Lab** on the **IISc campus** in **Bengaluru** to **strengthen industry-academia collaboration in quantum technology research**.

The lab is established with **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** support from SSIR at the **Department of Electronic Systems Engineering (DESE)** of IISc to **advance research in quantum technologies and semiconductor devices** under **Prof Mayank Shrivastava**.

DIAGNOSTIC AI TOOL

Microsoft has developed an **AI tool** named "**Diagnostic Orchestrator**" which is designed to **mimic the step-by-step clinical reasoning of human doctors for patient diagnosis**.

MAJOR CYBERSECURITY INCIDENTS

The global and Indian digital landscape has recently faced a series of **security incidents**, including the **State Bank of India (SBI) data exposure**, the **eMudhra weak cryptographic key flaw**, and **critical** "**PHP2Shell**" **core language vulnerabilities**.

MMX MISSION LAUNCHED

The **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** has launched an uncrewed spacecraft for the **Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission** onboard an **H3 rocket** from the Yoshinobu Launch Complex at the **Tanegashima Space Center in Japan**.

The primary objective of the MMX mission is to **collect and return samples** from **Phobos**, a moon of **Mars**, to Earth. If successful, it will be the **world's first mission to return samples from a Martian moon**. The spacecraft is projected to reach Mars in **August 2027** and return to Earth in **2031**.

The mission is carried out in collaboration with **4 international space agencies**: **NASA, European Space Agency, National Center for Space Studies (CNES) of France, and German Aerospace Center (DLR)**. It also carries a small rover named '**IDEFIX**', developed by **CNES and DLR**, which will be deployed in **early 2029** to orbit Phobos.

INDIAN ASTRONOMER AT NASA MISSION

NASA has selected **Indian astronomer Dr Ramya Manjunath Anche** from the **University of Arizona** as the **Principal Investigator** for the **Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in Interstellar Dust (PUFFINS) mission**.

The mission operates under the **Astrophysics Pioneers programme** of NASA, with its launch targeted for **2030** at an estimated cost of **₹168 crore ($20 million)**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):

Administrator (acting) – Sean Duffy

Headquarters – Washington DC, USA

Established in – 1958

TTS MODELS FOR SOURASHTRA

The **Digital India BHASHINI (Bhasha Interface for India) Division (DIBD)** has collaborated with the **SPIRE Lab of the IISc Bengaluru** to develop **Text-to-Speech (TTS) models** for the **Sourashtra language**.

The initiative aims to **enhance digital inclusion for low-resource Indian languages**. It is to be noted that Sourashtra is a **digitally underrepresented minority Indo-Aryan language** spoken predominantly by the **Sourashtra community in Tamil Nadu**.

MARS DRIVING RECORD

The **NASA** has announced that the **Perseverance rover** of NASA has **set a new extraterrestrial driving record** on **Mars**.

The rover covered a total distance of **45.22 km (28.06 miles)** through **advanced autonomous navigation**. This achievement surpassed the previous record of **45.16 km** held by the **Opportunity rover** of NASA.

FIRST HUMAN CASE

France has confirmed the **world's first human infection** of the '**Shamonda virus**'. It is an **arbovirus** that **typically affects livestock** and **spreads through mosquitoes and midges**.

STATE

AAI TO DEVELOP PURI AIRPORT

The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has agreed to develop the "Shree Jagannath International Airport" (SJIA) in **Puri, Odisha**, at an estimated cost of **₹5,631 crore**.

Airports Authority of India (AAI):

Chairman – Vipin Kumar

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1995

MICE TOURISM PORTAL

The **Odisha** government has launched the **first digital portal in India** for **Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism**.

The platform is designed to **streamline incentive applications** and **facilitate approvals** to position the state as a **premier destination for corporate events**.

BHADOHI DISTRICT RENAMED IN UP

The **Uttar Pradesh** government has renamed the **Bhadohi district** as '**Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi**' to **honor the legacy of the saint and social reformer Sant Ravidas**.

KERALA POLICE SIGNS MOU FOR AI ROBOT

The **Kerala Police** has signed an MoU with **I Hub Robotics** for the trial-based deployment of '**Daksha**' in **Kochi**.

It is recognized as the **first humanoid traffic assistant robot in India** integrated with **AI technology**.

SEVA SANKALP ABHIYAN

The **Delhi** government has launched the '**Seva Sankalp Abhiyan**' campaign, a **comprehensive package of healthcare and social welfare initiatives**.

As part of the campaign, the **monthly incentive** for **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA)** is increased from **₹3,000 to ₹6,000** (**a 100% hike**). The initiative also includes the expansion of '**Mission ANMOL**' (**Auxiliary Nurse Midwife Online**) for **maternal and child healthcare**.

WOMN SCHEME

The **Kerala** government has launched a women-centric scheme named '**Women on the Move and Menstrual Needs (WOMN)**'.

The scheme aims to **improve access to menstrual hygiene products** for women and girls during travel, and was introduced at the **Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus terminal** in **Thiruvananthapuram**.

KERALA TO SET UP CARBON CREDIT CELL

The **World Bank** has backed the proposal of the **Kerala** government to set up a **Carbon Credit Cell** under the **Department of Agriculture**.

The cell is established as a part of the **₹2,365 crore Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project** to **promote climate-friendly farming practices** and **provide additional income opportunities for farmers**.

KERALA LAUNCHES RLE PROJECT

The **Kerala** government has launched **India's first State-level Red List Assessment of Ecosystems (RLE) project** to **shift conservation from species-focused preservation to proactive, landscape-wide ecosystem management**.

The **1-year project** addresses **critical habitat degradation**, including an **83% loss of tropical riparian evergreen forests** in the **Western Ghats**. It will evaluate collapse risks across **all 14 districts** using the criteria of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.

BHAGINI NIVEDITA SCHEME

The **West Bengal Cabinet** has approved the '**Bhagini Nivedita Scheme**' to **provide financial assistance of ₹50,000** to **unmarried women pursuing higher education**. The scheme is set to be implemented in the state from **January 2027**.

DIGITAL INITIATIVES

The **Mizoram** government has launched **four digital financial management initiatives**: **Mizoram Integrated Works Accounts System (MIWAS)**, **e-Sanction**, **e-Budget**, and **100% Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.

STEM LAB INAUGURATED IN ODISHA

Odisha Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati has inaugurated a **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) laboratory** and **Aeromodelling Training Centre** at the **Kosala School** in the **Bargarh district**.

The initiative was launched under the **Boeing Sukanya Programme** to **promote the participation of girls in aviation and emerging technologies**.

NEW DISTRICT FOR LADAKH

Vinai Kumar Saxena, the **Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the UT of Ladakh**, has announced **Sankoo** as the **8th district** of the region, carved out of the **Kargil district**.

LADAKH BENCH OF HIGH COURT INAUGURATED

CJI Surya Kant has inaugurated the **newly established Ladakh Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** in **Leh**.

During the event, **4 major initiatives** (including the **Green Wall**) were launched to **promote environmental conservation, enhance digital judicial services, and ensure transparency in recruitment**.

FIRST MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR LADAKH

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has approved the **first Government Medical College (GMC)** in **Ladakh** at **Stipuk Pharka in Leh**. The institution is scheduled to begin operations from the **academic year 2027-28**.

LADAKH DECLARED ORGANIC UT

Ladakh has been declared **India's first 100% organic Union Territory** by **Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena**, following a **ban on the sale, distribution, and use of chemical and synthetic fertilizers**.

GOA AI TECH CONCLAVE

The **Goa AI Tech Conclave 2026** was held in **Panaji, Goa**, under the theme "**AI for People, Planet and Progress**". The conclave introduced the **Goa AI Policy 2026**, establishing a **3-year implementation framework** (**2026-2029**) to position the state as a hub for **responsible AI and applied innovation**.

The **Goa government** signed an MoU with **BITS Pilani** to set up an **AI Centre of Excellence**. Additionally, the **Digital India BHASHINI (Bhasha Interface for India) Division (DIBD)** launched the **BHASHINI Konkani Large Language Model (LLM)** in collaboration with the Goa government.

NEW CONSTITUENCIES FOR LADAKH COUNCILS

VK Saxena, the **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**, has notified **100 constituencies** for the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC)**, **doubling the previous strength of 52 constituencies**.

Under this new administrative structure, **Leh** will have the **maximum number of constituencies, totaling 22**.

ASSAM CABINET APPROVES INVESTMENT

The **Assam Cabinet**, chaired by **CM Himanta Biswa Sarma**, has approved an investment proposal of **₹303.69 crore** by **Weetek Plastic Pvt Ltd**, a subsidiary of the **Welspun Group**, to set up a **manufacturing unit** in **Rangia, Assam**.

Additionally, the state government has approved the institution of the **Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award**, selecting singer **Usha Mangeshkar** as its **inaugural recipient**.

APPOINTMENTS

HARSH MUKESHBHAI SANGHANI RE-ELECTED

Harsh Mukeshbhai Sanghani, an Indian cooperator, has been **re-elected unopposed** as the **President of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Youth Committee** for the **2026-2030 term**, following the annual plenary meeting and elections held in **Panama**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO SUPREME COURT

Justice Sunita Agarwal, **Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya**, and **Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh** have been **elevated as judges** of the **Supreme Court**. With their appointments, the **working strength** of the top court has increased to **37**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN IRDAI

Dinesh Pant and **Girija Subramanian** have been appointed as the **Whole-Time Members** of the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

Chairman – Ajay Seth

Headquarters – Hyderabad

Established in – 1999

NEW CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, the current **Vice Chief of the Air Staff**, has been appointed as the **29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)**.

He will assume the rank of **Air Chief Marshal** from **October 31, 2026**, succeeding **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh**.

COMMITTEES RECONSTITUTED

Om Birla, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha (LS), and **CP Radhakrishnan**, the **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (RS)**, have reconstituted **24 Departmentally-Related Standing Committees (DRSCs)** for the 2026-27 term.

Bhartruhari Mahtab, a BJP MP, has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the Committee on Finance**, while **Shashi Tharoor**, a Congress MP, will head the **Committee on External Affairs**. Both these committees consist of **31 members**, including **21 from the LS and 10 from the RS**. Additionally, **Radha Mohan Singh** of the BJP is designated as the head of the **Committee on Defence**.

NEW APPOINTMENT FOR RAJESHWARI KUMARI

Rajeshwari Kumari, a **former Indian trap shooter**, has been elected as a member of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission** to represent the **South Asia region** for the **2026-2030 term**.

She is the **second Indian** to serve on the commission after **Shiva Keshavan**, who is currently the **Vice-Chairman**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS OF GOVERNORS

President Droupadi Murmu has **appointed new Governors** for **6 Indian states**. It includes: **Rajendra Arlekar** as the **full-time Governor** of **Tamil Nadu**, **OP Mathur** for **Kerala**, **Dr Sudha Yadav** for **Karnataka**, **Braj Mohan Ram** for **Odisha**, **Dhal Singh Bisen** for **Uttarakhand**, and **Dushyant Gautam** for **Sikkim**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN INCOIS

Dr TM Balakrishnan Nair, the **Director** of the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, has been elected as the **Chair** of the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)** under the **UNESCO**.

The election took place during the **second Intergovernmental Session** of IOCINDIO held in **Bali, Indonesia**. **Turki Al-Said** of Kuwait and **Badal Mohammed Rezah** of Mauritius were elected as the **Vice-Chairs of IOCINDIO**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN ONGC

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **Sunil Kumar**, **Executive Director (ED)** of **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC)**, as the **Chairman** of ONGC for a **3-year term**. He succeeds **Arun Kumar Singh**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN HDFC BANK

Anup Bagchi has assumed office as the **MD & CEO** of **HDFC Bank** for a **3-year term** ending on **October 26, 2029**.

He succeeds **Sashidhar Jagdishan**. With an annual package of **₹36 crore**, he is designated as the **highest-paid bank CEO in India**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN IIMSAM

Anca-Maria Verma has been appointed as the **Ambassador-At-Large for India** by the **Inter-Governmental Institution for the Use of Micro-Algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition (IIMSAM)** for a **5-year term** starting from **October 20, 2026**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN J&K

Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav has been appointed as the **Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, **effective from November 1, 2026**. He succeeds **Atal Dulloo**.

AWARDS

AGU AWARDS FOR INDIAN SCIENTISTS

Indian scientists Roxy Mathew Koll and **Neelima Satyam** have been named among the **43 awardees** of the **American Geophysical Union (AGU) 2026**.

The awards recognise **excellence and leadership in research, education, and innovation** in **advanced earth and space sciences**.

SKYTRAX WORLD AIRLINE AWARDS

Singapore Airlines has been named the **"World's Best Airline"** at the **World Airline Awards 2026** announced by the international air transport rating organisation, **Skytrax**.

Qatar Airways is ranked second, followed by Cathay Pacific Airways (Hong Kong), ANA All Nippon Airways (Japan), and Turkish Airlines. Among Indian carriers, **Air India** is ranked **57th** globally, while **IndiGo** is positioned at **61st**.

AWARDS AT NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF ART

The **Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA)**, the **National Academy of Art** under the **Ministry of Culture**, has announced **20 awards** at the **65th National Exhibition of Art (NEA)** held at **Rabindra Bhavan** in New Delhi. **Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** felicitated the awardees during the ceremony.

Key awardees recognized for their artistic contributions include **Chandra Shekhar Sain** (**Sculpture**), **Gopal Chandra Naskar** (**Painting**), **Pankaj Kumar Sharma** (**Drawing**), and **Pritam Madhukar Deuskar** (**Printmaking**).

WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION

India has secured the **10th position** at the **48th edition** of the **WorldSkills Competition** held in **Shanghai, China**. The Indian team won **6 Silver Medals** and **20 Medals for Excellence**.

China, the host nation, **topped the overall medal table**. It is to be noted that the **49th edition** of the competition, titled '**WorldSkills Aichi 2028**', is scheduled to be held in **Aichi, Japan**.

NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

Karl Deisseroth, **Peter Hegemann**, and **Georg Nagel** have been awarded the **2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** by the **Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet** in **Stockholm, Sweden**.

They are recognized for their discovery of **light-gated ion channels** and the development of **optogenetics**, a biological technique that uses light-sensitive proteins to control specific neurons. The three laureates will share the prize money of **12 million Swedish kronor (SEK)** equally.

It is to be noted that **Peter Hegemann** and **Georg Nagel** identified **channelrhodopsin** in **green alga**, while **Karl Deisseroth** integrated the gene into **rat neurons** in **2005**, proving that blue light could trigger neural signals. The methodology was officially named **optogenetics** in **2006**.

NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

Henri Boris Kagan, a chemist from **France**, and **Kenso Soai**, a chemist from **Japan**, have been awarded the **2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

The award is given recognising their discovery of **nonlinear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis**, which advanced the selective production of **molecular mirror images (enantiomers)**. The two laureates will share the prize money of **Swedish kronor (SEK) 12 million** equally.

NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

Francis Louis Halzen, an **82-year-old Belgian-American particle physicist**, has been conferred the **2026 Nobel Prize in Physics** by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

The award, carrying a prize value of **12 million Swedish kronor (SEK)**, recognizes his contributions to the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory (IceCube)** and the discovery of **high-energy neutrinos** from astrophysical sources. It is to be noted that the discovery is based on a concept proposed in **1988**, which involved the utilization of **Antarctic ice** as a massive neutrino detector.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, a **South African jurist and human rights pioneer of Indian origin**, has been awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize for 2026** by the **Norwegian Nobel Committee** for her **efforts to promote peace and international law**.

It is to be noted that she became the **first woman to open a law practice** in **Natal province of South Africa** in **1967**.

NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

Anne Carson, a **Canadian poet and essayist**, has been awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature 2026** by the **Swedish Academy**.

She has been recognised for her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature. With this, she becomes the **19th woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature**. The award carries a total prize amount of **12 million Swedish kronor (SEK)**.

NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS

American economists Robert E Hall (Stanford University) and **Michael Woodford** (Columbia University) have been jointly awarded the **2026 Nobel Prize in Economics** by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

The pair was honoured "**for microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation**". The laureates will share a **cash prize of 12 million Swedish kronor ($1.2 million)**.

RAMANUJAN PRIZE 2026

Mahesh Kakde, a professor at the **IISc Bengaluru**, has been named the winner of the **2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries** for his work in **algebraic number theory**.

With this, he has become the **5th Indian** to receive the honour. The award carries a cash prize of **$10,000**.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR INDIAN PILOT

Indian Captain Smit Machchhar, a **pilot of flydubai**, will receive the **Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism**, the **highest civilian bravery award of Israel**. He is recognised for **preventing a potential catastrophe aboard an aircraft**.

GLOBAL FINANCE AWARDS

State Bank of India (SBI) has won the **"World's Best Consumer Bank 2026" award** for the **second consecutive year**, alongside the **"Best Bank in India 2026" award** from **Global Finance** magazine.

Banco Santander (**Spain**) won the **"World's Best Bank" award**, and **DBS Bank** (**Singapore**) received the **"World's Best Corporate Bank" award**. **BBVA** (**Spain**) was named the **"World's Best Emerging Markets Bank"**, while **Ecobank** (**Togo**) won the **"World's Best Frontier Markets Bank" award**.

OSKAR KLEIN MEDAL

Ashoke Sen, an **Indian physicist**, has been awarded the **2026 Oskar Klein Medal**, becoming the **first Indian physicist to receive the international honour**. The medal is jointly awarded by **Stockholm University** and the **Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

Upon receiving the award, Professor Sen delivered the **2026 Oskar Klein Memorial Lecture** titled "**Gravity from strings and strings from gravity**". It is to be noted that he is also a recipient of the **Padma Shri** (2001) and the **Padma Bhushan** (2013).

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON AWARD

Reema Nanavaty, the **Director** of the **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**, has received the **Hillary Rodham Clinton Award** for her contributions to **women's economic empowerment, livelihoods, peace, and security**. She was previously honoured with the **Padma Shri** in **2013** in the **field of social work**.

Other recipients of the award include **Tory Burch** (**fashion designer and founder of the Tory Burch Foundation**) and **Muhammad Yunus** (**Nobel Peace Prize laureate** in **2006** and **founder of Grameen Bank**).

LEGION OF HONOUR

Sunil Bharti Mittal, the **founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises**, has been honoured with the **Legion of Honour (Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour)**, the **highest civilian distinction of France**.

The distinction was conferred by **Thierry Mathou**, the Ambassador of France to India, recognising his contributions to **strengthening economic ties between India and France**.

PRINCESS OF ASTURIAS AWARD

Lionel Messi, **the Argentine footballer**, has been awarded the prestigious **Princess of Asturias Sports Award 2026** in **Oviedo, Spain**. With this recognition, he has become the **first footballer to achieve this honour**.

SPORTS

MARK WOOD RETIRES

Mark Wood, a **36-year-old fast bowler** of **England**, has **announced retirement from international cricket**.

YOUNGEST WGM

Bodhana Sivanandan, an **11-year-old Indian-origin British** chess prodigy, becomes the **youngest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) in history**.

She secured her **third and final WGM norm** while representing England at the **46th Chess Olympiad** in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**. It is to be noted that she previously set a record as the **youngest player to represent the country internationally at the age of 9**.

ASIAN PENCAK SILAT CHAMPIONSHIP

India is set to host the **4th Junior and 11th Senior Asian Pencak Silat Championship** in **2027**. The international tournament will be held at the **Manohar Parrikar Stadium** in **Goa**.

The hosting rights were announced by the **Indian Pencak Silat Federation (IPSF)** and have been officially endorsed by the **International Pencak Silat Federation (PERSILAT)**.

Indian Pencak Silat Federation (IPSF):

President – Kishor Prakash Yewale

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2012

46TH CHESS OLYMPIAD

India has won **silver** in the **open section** and **bronze** in the **women section** at the **46th Chess Olympiad** held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**. The international team event was organised by the **International Chess Federation (FIDE)**. In the open category, Uzbekistan won the gold medal, and in the women category, **China** won gold.

India retained the **Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy** for the best combined performance for the **third consecutive time**. The All India Chess Federation open team was led by **Grandmaster (GM) Srinath Narayanan** (featuring **D Gukesh**) and the women team was captained by **GM Swayams Mishra** (featuring **Divya Deshmukh**).

20TH ASIAN GAMES

India finished **fourth** in the overall medal standings with **85 medals** (**21 gold, 27 silver, and 37 bronze**) at the **20th Asian Games (XX Asian Games)**, officially known as **Aichi-Nagoya 2026**, held in **Japan**.

China **topped the tally** with **341 medals** (169 gold), followed by Japan. The event concluded at the **Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium**. **Yu Zidi**, a 13-year-old swimmer from **China**, was named the **Most Valuable Player (MVP) - Female** for her three gold medals, while **Puripol Boonson**, a **Thai sprinter**, was named the **MVP - Male**.

India won **gold medals in team sports** including **Men's and Women's Cricket, Hockey, and Kabaddi**. **Archery** was the **most successful individual sport** for India with **5 gold medals** won in **Women's Individual Recurve**), **Women's Recurve Team**, and the **Men's, Women's, and Mixed Compound Teams**.

In **Shooting**, gold medals were won in the **10m Air Pistol Mixed Team** (**Kamaljeet and Suruchi Singh**), **Women's Trap** (**Neeru Dhanda**), and **Mixed Trap** (**Kynan Chenai and Neeru Dhanda**). **Boxing** gold medals were claimed by **Parveen Hooda** (Women's 65kg), **Lovlina Borgohain** (Women's 75kg), and **Ankush Panghal** (Men's 80kg).

Other gold medalists include **Sujeet Kalkal** (Men's 65kg Freestyle Wrestling), the **Indian Wrestling Contingent**, the **Women's 4×400m Relay team** (Athletics), and **Pranavi Urs** (Women's Individual Golf).

F1 BAHRAIN GP

Max Verstappen, a **Belgian-Dutch national** racing for **Red Bull**, has won the Formula One (F1) **Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026**, which was hosted in **Malaysia**.

KISAN CRICKET LEAGUE LAUNCHED

Prasar Bharati and **In-Dot Sports Pvt Ltd** have launched the **Kisan Cricket League (KCL)** in **New Delhi**.

The league aims to **identify cricketing and singing talent from rural and semi-urban parts of the country** through digital auditions, **AI-enabled screening**, and on-ground trials. The inaugural season of the league is scheduled to be held in **February 2027**.

PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN BOXING

The **National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)**, the **Sports Authority of India**, and the **Indian Oil Corporation** have partnered to **strengthen boxing in India**. The collaboration focuses on a **structured programme centered on talent identification and athlete development**.

Under this partnership, the **Indian Oil Corporation** will provide **₹40 crore** over a period of **2 years** to support the initiative.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN IUSF

Prof. Achyuta Samanta, the founder of the **Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)** and **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)**, has been **elected as the first President** of the **Indian UniSport Federation (IUSF)**. He was elected during the **first Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the federation held in **New Delhi**.

BROMZE AT WORLD BOWLS

Putul Sonowal, an **Indian lawn bowls player** from **Assam**, has **become the first Indian to win a bronze medal** in the **Men's Singles Category** at the **World Bowls Champion of Champions** held in **Barham, Australia**.

World Bowls:

President – Brett O'Riley

Headquarters – Melbourne, Australia

Established in – 2001

REVIVAL COMMITTEE FOR HIL

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has formed a **7-member committee** to revive the financially troubled **Hockey India League (HIL)** and address concerns regarding its governance, financial model, and structure.

The committee includes **Vineel Krishna** (Sports Ministry Joint Secretary (Khelo India)), **Dilip Tirkey** (**Hockey India** President), **Bhola Nath Singh** (Secretary General), and **Sekar J Manoharan** (Treasurer). It is to be noted that HIL is a **professional field hockey competition** organised by Hockey India, which held its **inaugural season in 2013** and was **relaunched in 2024**.

SINGAPORE GP 2026

Max Verstappen, a **Belgian-Dutch national** racing for **Red Bull**, has won the Formula One (F1) **Singapore Grand Prix 2026**.

70TH BALLON D OR

The **70th annual Ballon d'Or ceremony** was held at the **London Palladium**. **Harry Kane** of **Bayern Munich** and **England** won the **Men's Ballon d'Or**, becoming the **first English player to win the award in 25 years** (since Michael Owen in 2001).

Alexia Putellas of Barcelona / London City and **Spain** was awarded the **Women's Ballon d'Or**. The **Kopa Trophy** for young talent was won by **Lamine Yamal** (Men) and **Vicky Lopez** (Women). **Unai Simon** (Men) and **Cata Coll** (Women) received the **Yashin Trophy** for best goalkeeper, while **Harry Kane** (Men) and **Charlyn Corral** (Women) won the **Gerd Müller Trophy** as top scorers.

The **Coach of the Year award** was given to **Luis de la Fuente** (Men - Spain) and **Pere Romeu** (Women - Barcelona Femení). **Paris Saint-Germain** (Men) and **FC Barcelona** (Women) were named **Club of the Year**. **Bukayo Saka** of **Arsenal** and **England** received the **Socrates Award** for humanitarian work.

NEW LEADERSHIP IN INDIAN CRICKET

Pragyan Ojha has been appointed as the **new Chairman of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Senior Men's Selection Committee**, **succeeding Ajit Agarkar**. The newly constituted selection committee also comprises **Ramesh Powar, Shiv Sundar Das, RP Singh, and Ajay Ratra**.

Smriti Mandhana has assumed the role of the **new captain of the Indian women's cricket team**, **succeeding Harmanpreet Kaur**.

NEW CHESS RECORD

Bodhana Sivanandan, an **11-year-old** British chess prodigy of **Indian origin**, has become the **youngest female International Master (IM)** at the **European Club Cup** in **Budva, Montenegro**.

She surpassed the **1988 record** set by **Judit Polgar** at the age of 12. Additionally, she became the **7th-youngest player overall** to attain the IM title.

WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)** has announced **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, as the host of the **2029 Senior World Weightlifting Championships**. This marks the **first time India will host the senior event**.

The announcement was made following the IWF Executive Board meeting in **Ningbo, China**. Additionally, the IWF has awarded the **2027 Senior World Weightlifting Championships** to **Yerevan, Armenia**, the **2028 World Youth Championships** to **Prishtina, Kosovo**, and **World Junior Championships** to **Caracas, Venezuela**, and the **2030 Senior World Weightlifting Championships** to **Moscow, Russia**.

WORLD BOXING U19 CHAMPIONSHIPS

India has won **4 medals** including **1 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze** at the **World Boxing U19 Championships 2026** held in **Budva, Montenegro**, finishing **joint 7th** in the overall medal standings along with Ukraine.

Aditya has won **gold** in the **Men's 55kg category**. **Russia** topped the medal table with **10 medals** (**5 gold**), followed by **Uzbekistan and the USA**.

BOOKS

BOOK ON SANJAY JAGDALE

Sunil Gavaskar, **former Indian cricket captain**, has released a book titled "**Sanjay Jagdale: Rag-Rag Mein Cricket**" in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.

Authored by **Kiran Waikar** and **Sunil Dudhale**, the book chronicles the life and cricketing journey of **former cricketer, selector, and administrator Sanjay Jagdale**.

NEW BOOK BY ANIL K ANTONY

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan has released a book titled "**Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World**" at **Uprashtrapati Bhawan** in **New Delhi**, highlighting the transformation, technological progress, and global role of India.

The book is authored by **Anil K Antony**, **National Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**, and published by **Rupa Publications**.

VANDE MATARAM BOOK

Arif Khan, the **former Governor of Bihar and Kerala**, has launched the **English translation** of a book titled "**The Story of Vande Mataram**" in **New Delhi**.

The book was originally written in **Malayalam** by **Ranga Hari** and translated into English by **Dr. Mercy Jill**.

OBITUARY

SINGEETHAM SRINIVASA RAO PASSED AWAY

Singeetham Srinivasa Rao, a **veteran Indian filmmaker**, passed away at the age of 94.

He was a recipient of two **National Film Awards** in 1973 and 1988, and was honored with the **Life Achievement Award** by the **Film Federation of India (FFI)** in 2011.

NANA PATEKAR PASSED AWAY

Nana Patekar, a **veteran Bollywood actor**, passed away at the age of 75. He was a recipient of **Padma Shri** in 2013 and **3 National Film Awards**.

PROF PALLE RAMA RAO PASSED AWAY

Palle Rama Rao, a renowned **metallurgist** and former **Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad (UoH)**, passed away at the age of 89.

He was a recipient of **Padma Shri** in 1989, **Padma Bhushan** in 2001, and **Padma Vibhushan** in 2011.

ROSHAN KUMARI PASSED AWAY

Roshan Kumari, a renowned **Indian classical dancer** and an exponent of the **Jaipur gharana of Kathak**, passed away at the age of 82. She was a recipient of **Padma Shri** in 1984.

EVA MARIE SAINT PASSED AWAY

Eva Marie Saint, a veteran **Oscar-winning actress**, passed away at the age of 102. She won an Oscar in the **Best Supporting Actress category** in 1955 for her debut film, "**On the Waterfront (1954)**".

DR AV SATYANARAYANA RAJU PASSED AWAY

Dr Alluri Venkata Satyanarayana Raju, the **founder and Chairman Emeritus** of **Nagarjuna Construction Company (NCC) Ltd**, passed away at 89. He was a recipient of **Padma Shri** in 2010 for his contributions to **trade and industry**.

GURUVAYUR DORAI PASSED AWAY

Guruvayur Dorai, a renowned **Mridangam maestro** (double-headed percussion instrument used in Carnatic music), passed away at the age of 91.

He is a recipient of **Padma Shri** in 2025 in the field of Arts.

DEVA PASSED AWAY

Devanesan Chokkalingam, a **veteran Tamil film music director** popularly known as **Deva**, passed away at the age of 75. He was widely recognized as '**Thenisai Thendral**'.

CHERUVAYAL RAMAN PASSED AWAY

Cheruvayal Raman, a renowned **traditional rice conservationist from Kerala**, known as "**Nellachan**" or the **Father of Paddy**, passed away at the age of 74. He is a recipient of **Padma Shri** in 2023.

B MADHUSOODANA KURUP PASSED AWAY

B Madhusoodana Kurup, a renowned **fisheries scientist** and the founding Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)**, passed away at the age of 71.

He co-authored the book titled "**Exploring the Legacy of Fishing and Farming Below Sea Level: Vembanad-Kole Wetlands of Southern India**".

VUMMIDI ETHIRAJ PASSED AWAY

Vummidi Ethiraj, a renowned **jeweller and craftsman**, passed away at the age of 99.

He was instrumental in crafting the historic **Sengol (gold-plated silver sceptre)** presented to **Jawaharlal Nehru**, the **first PM of India**, in **1947 at the time of Independence**.

JOGENDRANATH CHOWDHURY PASSED AWAY

Jogendranath Chowdhury, a renowned **contemporary Indian painter** and **former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament**, passed away at the age of 87. He represented the **All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)** in Parliament.

CHEF DHAMU PASSED AWAY

Chef Dhamu (Dr K Damodharan), a legendary **Tamil culinary maestro and television personality**, passed away at the age of 72. He was a recipient of **Padma Shri** in 2025.

In 2004, he became the **first Indian chef to earn a PhD in Hotel Management and Catering Technology from the University of Madras**. He also set a **Guinness World Record** in 2010 for the longest solo cooking marathon by preparing over **617 dishes in 24 hours**.

TOM SKERRITT PASSED AWAY

Tom Skerritt, a **veteran American actor**, passed away at the age of 93.

DAYS

WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY

Day – September 21

Theme 2026 – "The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do: A Dementia Diagnosis Matters."

Observed since – 1994

World Alzheimer's Month – September

INDIA INTERNATIONAL WATER WEEK

Day – September 22 to 26

Theme 2026 – "Climate Resilient Water Management"

Observed since – 2012

WORLD RHINO DAY

Day – September 22

Observed by – Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Observed since – 2010

NATIONAL AYURVEDA DAY (DHANWANTARI JAYANTI)

Day – September 23

Theme 2026 – "Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow"

Observed since – 2016

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES

Day – September 23

Theme 2026 – "Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights"

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 2018

Symbol – Blue Ribbon

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS) DAY

Day – September 24

Commemorating – Establishment of NSS in 1969 during the birth centenary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi

Motto – "Not Me But You"

ANTYODAYA DIWAS DAY

Day – September 25

Observed since – 2014

Commemorating – Birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the founder of Bhartiya Jan Sangh (BJS)

WORLD TOURISM DAY

Day – September 27

Theme 2026 – "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism"

Observed by – UN World Tourism Organisation

Observed since – 1980

Host – El Salvador

WORLD HEART DAY

Day – September 29

Theme 2026 – "Don't Miss a Beat"

Observed by – World Heart Federation (WHF), based in Geneva, Switzerland

Observed since – 2000

Proposed by – Antoni Bayes de Luna in 1999

WORLD RIVERS DAY

Day – 4th Sunday of September ({September 27 in 2026)

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 2005

Proposed by – Mark Angelo, a renowned river advocate from Canada

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

Day – October 02 to 08

Theme 2026 – "Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife"

Observed since – 1957

WORLD SPACE WEEK

Day – October 4 to 10

Theme 2026 – "Rocket Revolution"

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 2000

Commemorating – The launch of Sputnik 1 on October 4, 1957, and the signing of the Outer Space Treaty on October 10, 1967

INTERNATIONAL COFFEE DAY

Day – October 01

Theme 2026 – "Celebrating Coffee, Honouring the People Behind Every Cup"

Observed by – International Coffee Organization (ICO), based in London, UK

Observed since – 2015

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Day – October 05

Theme 2026 – "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures"

Observed by – UNESCO

Observed since – 1994

WORLD HABITAT DAY

Day – 1st Monday of October (October 05 in 2026)

Theme 2026 – "Adequate Housing for All"

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 1986

Host – Muscat, Oman

WORLD POST DAY

Day – October 9

Theme 2026 – "One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities"

Commemorating – Establishment of Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874

INDIAN AIR FORCE DAY

Day – October 8

Theme 2026 – "Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise"

Commemorating – The formation of the IAF in 1932, originally established as an auxiliary air force under the British Empire

WORLD STANDARDS DAY

Day – October 14

Theme 2026 – "Shared vision for a better world: Spotlight on SDG 7-Affordable and Clean Energy"

Observed since – 1970

Commemorating – Establishment of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in 1947

NATIONAL POSTAL WEEK

Day – October 9 to 15

Theme 2026 – "World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities"

Observed by – Department of Posts (DoP), under Ministry of Communications

WORLD FOOD DAY

Day – October 16

Theme 2026 – "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow"

Observed by – Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Observed since – 1979

65TH RAISING DAY OF INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE

Day – October 24

Commemorating – The establishment of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in 1962

UNITED NATIONS DAY

Day – October 24

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 1947

Commemorating – The anniversary of the day on which the UN Charter entered into force in 1945

POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY

Day – October 21

Observed since – 1960

Commemorating – The sacrifice of 10 police personnel killed by Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh in 1959

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Volume #1.8

Issue #D1

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