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1-15

Current Affairs

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Interview Panel Member

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1. G.V. Satish Sir (Best Picks)

1. RBI Cuts Repo Rate to 5.25% Amid 'Goldilocks Phase'

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) described the current Indian macroeconomic environment as a “rare Goldilocks phase”—a period where growth is strong and inflation stays low.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held its 58th meeting from December 3–5, 2025.
- The MPC unanimously reduced the policy repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.25% with immediate effect,.
- This marks a cumulative reduction of 125 bps in the calendar year 2025,.
- Real GDP growth for 2025-26 is projected at 7.3% (revised upwards by 0.5% or 50 bps),.
- CPI inflation projection for 2025-26 is revised downward to 2% (from an earlier 2.6%),.
- The RBI announced liquidity measures including Open Market Operation (OMO) purchases of government securities worth ₹1,00,000 crore (in two tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on Dec 11 & 18) and a 3-year USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap of \$5 billion.
- India's Real GDP growth surged to 8.2% in Q2 FY26 (July-September), the highest in the last six quarters,.
- Headline inflation dipped to 0.3% in October 2025, falling below the RBI's lower tolerance band of 2% for the first time under the Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework.

2. Cabinet Approves Census of India 2027

- Census 2027 will be the 16th Census in the country and the 8th after independence.
- The Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990 provide the legal framework.
- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for conducting Census of India 2027 at a cost of ₹11,718.24 crore.
- It will be the first Digital Census using mobile apps and will include Caste Enumeration for the first time.
- The census will be carried out in two phases:
 - 1st Phase: House listing and Housing Census (April to September 2026).
 - 2nd Phase: Population Enumeration (February 2027).

3. Microsoft Commits \$17.5 Billion Investment in India

- This announcement followed a meeting between Microsoft Chairman & CEO Satya Nadella and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- Microsoft announced an investment of \$17.5 billion in India between 2026 and 2029,.
- The investment is targeted at expanding India's cloud and Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure.

4. MGNREGA Renamed and Wage/Day Limits Revised

- Originally launched as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005, it was later renamed MGNREGA.
- The Central government renamed MGNREGA to “Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Yojana”,.
- The minimum guaranteed employment was increased to 125 days (from 100 days),.
- The minimum wage was revised to ₹240 per day,.
- 50 additional days are provided in drought or disaster-affected areas.

5. Amazon Announces \$35 Billion Investment in India

- Amazon announced an investment of over \$35 billion in India by 2030 across all its businesses,.
- The announcement was made at the 6th edition of the “Amazon Smbhav Summit” in New Delhi.
- Amazon also signed an MoU with the Ministry of MSME to onboard artisans enrolled under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

6. India Rises to ‘Major Power’ Status in Asia Power Index

- The index is published by the Lowy Institute.
- According to the “2025 Asia Power Index”, India has risen to the category of ‘major power’.
- India secured 3rd place with a score of 40/100 (up from 38.1 in 2024, where it was a ‘middle power’).

7. Cabinet Approves 100% FDI in Insurance Sector

- Previously, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector was 74%.
- The Union Cabinet approved 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector,.

8. RBI Retains SBI, HDFC, and ICICI as D-SIBs for 2025

- Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) are banks considered "Too Big To Fail".
- SBI and ICICI Bank were designated in 2015/2016, and HDFC Bank in 2017.
- The RBI retained State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs in its 2025 list,.
- Additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) Requirement:
 - SBI (Bucket 4): 0.80%,.
 - HDFC Bank (Bucket 3/2): 0.40%,.
 - ICICI Bank (Bucket 1): 0.20%,.

9. RBI Launches National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30

- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra launched the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30.
- The strategy duration is 2025–2030.
- It aligns with the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to ensure universal access.
- The strategy is built on five pillars called ‘Panch-Jyoti’ and contains 47 total action points.

10. Harmanpreet Kaur Appointed as PNB’s Brand Ambassador

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) was nationalized in 1969.
- PNB appointed Indian women’s cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its first-ever female brand ambassador,.
- The announcement was made at an event themed ‘Banking On Champions’.

11. ADB Approves \$650 Million Loan for Rooftop Solar

- The initiative targets the year 2027.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$650 million (approx ₹5,780 crore) policy-based loan.
- The loan aims to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar systems in India.
- It targets benefiting 1 crore (10 million) households.

12. S&P Upgrades India’s Insolvency Regime Rating

- The assessment evaluates the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016.
- S&P Global Ratings upgraded India’s insolvency regime ranking from ‘Group C’ to ‘Group B’ on December 3, 2025.
- The creditor-friendliness of the framework was upgraded from ‘weak’ to ‘medium’.
- Average recovery values improved to 30+% (up from 15-20% pre-IBC).
- Resolution time for bad loans reduced to ~2 years (down from 6-8 years)

13. India Achieves 50% Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity Target

- India achieved 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.
- This milestone was reached five years ahead of the target schedule.
- As of 31 October 2025, the installed non-fossil capacity stands at 259 GW.
- 31.2 GW was added in the current financial year up to October 2025.

14. World Bank Appoints Paschal Donohoe as MD

- Paschal Donohoe served as Ireland's Minister for Finance and President of the Eurogroup,.
- The World Bank Group appointed Paschal Donohoe as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Knowledge Officer (CKO),.

15. SEBI Launches 'PaRRVA' Verification Agency

- SEBI launched the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA).
- A recognised stock exchange will act as the PaRRVA Data Centre, and a SEBI-registered credit rating agency will serve as the verifier.
- SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey stated it sets a new global benchmark for transparency.

16. India's First All-Electric 'Green Tug' Construction Begins

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the steel-cutting ceremony for India's first all-electric 'Green Tug'.
- It is being built for Deendayal Port.
- The tug is being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).
- By 2027, four major ports (Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Deendayal Port, Paradip Port, and V.O. Chidambaranar Port) will procure 2 green tugs each.

17. MSP for Copra (2026 Season) Approved

- Milling Copra: MSP fixed at ₹12,027 per quintal (Increase of ₹445),.
- Ball Copra: MSP fixed at ₹12,500 per quintal (Increase of ₹400).
- Ensures a minimum 50% profit margin for farmers over the cost of production.
- Since 2018–19, MSPs have been fixed at 1.5 times the cost of production.

18. Fino Payments Bank Gets Nod for SFB Transition

- Fino Payments Bank currently operates as a payments-only institution.
- Fino Payments Bank received in-principle approval from RBI to convert into a Small Finance Bank (SFB),.
- Minimum net worth for conversion is ₹300 crore (to be achieved within 18 months); for a fresh license, it is ₹200 crore.

19. Microsoft & Ministry of Labour MoU

- Signed in the presence of Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella.
- The Ministry of Labour & Employment signed an MoU with Microsoft.
- Microsoft committed to bringing over 15,000 employers from its global network onto the National Career Service (NCS) platform.

20. RBI Issues Consolidated Master Directions

- The RBI released 244 consolidated Master Directions (MDs),.
- These replace 9,446 old circulars.

21. Sanchar Saathi App Mandate Reversed

- The Ministry of Communications reversed its decision to mandate the pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app on all smartphones.

22. BPCL Named in Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars

- Recognised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Mind the Bridge.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) was named one of the “Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars (CSS) 2025” worldwide,.
- BPCL is the only Indian organisation to feature in this global list.
- BPCL established the ‘Ankur’ initiative in 2016 and the ‘BPCL Ankur Fund’ to invest in startups.

23. India Hosts UNESCO's 20th ICH Session

- The Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Convention was adopted in 2003.
- India is hosting the 20th Session of the UNESCO ICH Committee.
- Venue: Red Fort, New Delhi.
- This is the first time India is hosting this session.
- India has nominated Chhath Mahaparva and Diwali for inclusion in the list for 2025.

24. Lando Norris Wins F1 World Drivers' Title

- Lando Norris (McLaren) was crowned the Formula One World Champion.
- The title was clinched in Abu Dhabi on December 7, 2025.
- He became the 11th British driver to win the world title.

25. Arun Kumar Singh's Tenure as ONGC Chairman Extended

- The government approved a 1-year extension for Arun Kumar Singh as Chairman and CEO of ONGC.
- His tenure is extended until December 6, 2026,.

26. Numaligarh Refinery Limited Granted Navratna Status

- NRL is a subsidiary of Oil India Limited (OIL).
- Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) was granted Navratna status by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE).
- NRL became the 27th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to receive this status.
- Eligibility requires Miniratna Category-I status, Schedule ‘A’ listing, and an "excellent" or "very good" MoU rating in 3 of the last 5 years.

27. RBI Guidelines on Digital Banking Consent

- RBI issued final guidelines for digital banking channels.
- It is now mandatory for banks to obtain explicit consent from customers before providing digital banking services,.
- Banks cannot force customers to opt for digital channels to avail of basic facilities like debit cards,.
- These directions apply to Commercial Banks, Small Finance Banks, Payment Banks, Rural Banks, etc..

28. Vikram Sahu Appointed as CEO of Bank of America India

- He succeeds Kaku Nakhate, who led India operations for 15 years.
- Vikram Sahu was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bank of America N.A. (BANA) in India,.
- Bank of America N.A. India was established in 1964 and is headquartered in Mumbai.

29. SBI & Bank of India to Establish Centre of Excellence

- State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of India (BOI) signed an MoU to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Strategic Partnership,
- BOI HQ: Mumbai. SBI HQ: Mumbai.

30. Rohit Sharma Scores 20,000 International Runs

- Only three other Indians have achieved this milestone.
- Rohit Sharma became the 4th Indian to score 20,000 runs across Tests, ODIs, and T20Is.
- He joins the elite list comprising Sachin Tendulkar (34,357), Virat Kohli (27,910), and Rahul Dravid (24,208).

31. Russia to Join International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- IBCA was launched by PM Narendra Modi in April 2023.
- Russia will become the 19th member nation.
- IBCA headquarters is in New Delhi. It protects 7 big cats: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.

32. Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha: Youngest FIDE Rated Player

- Hails from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.
- Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha became the youngest player ever to earn an official FIDE rating.
- Age: 3 years, 7 months, and 20 days.
- He entered the list with a rapid rating of 1572.
- He broke the previous record held by Anish Sarkar.

33. IGI Airport Certified as 'Water Positive'

- Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport (Delhi) became India's 1st airport with over 40 million passengers to be certified as 'water-positive',.
- Recognized at the 'Water Innovation Summit 2025' in New Delhi.

34. RBI Gold Metal Loan (GML) Norms Revised

- RBI revised guidelines to allow banks to extend Gold Metal Loans (GML) to a wider category of jewellers, including those who do not manufacture jewellery themselves,.
- The new norms take effect from April 1, 2026.
- Loan tenors for domestic borrowers are capped at 270 days.

35. 100% Digitization of Electoral Rolls in Rajasthan

- Rajasthan became the first state in India to achieve 100% digitization of its electoral rolls,.

36. Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty Elected Press Club President

- Senior journalist Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty was elected as the first woman President of the Press Club of India,.
- Afzal Imam was elected as Secretary General.

37. Usha Janakiraman Appointed RBI Executive Director

- RBI appointed Usha Janakiraman as Executive Director (ED) with effect from December 1, 2025,.

38. India-US MH-60R Helicopter Sustainment Deal

- India finalized a ₹7,995 crore (approx. \$946 million) agreement with the USA for a 5-year sustainment package for the Navy's fleet of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters,.

39. LIC Increases Stake in Cipla

- LIC increased its shareholding in Cipla from 5.025% to 7.055%,.
- This involved acquiring over 1.64 crore shares.

40. 'Bharat Taxi' App Launched

- Union Minister Amit Shah launched the 'Bharat Taxi' ride-hailing app.
- It is operated by Sahakar Taxi Co-operative Ltd.
- Operates on a 'Zero Commission' or minimal service fee model.
- Touted as the world's 1st national mobility cooperative owned by drivers.
- Trial runs began in Delhi and Gujarat.

41. 56th IFFI Goa Awards

- Held in Goa.
- Golden Peacock for Best Feature Film: Won by the Vietnamese film “Skin of Youth” (Director: Ash Mayfair).
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Presented to Rajinikanth.

42. India's GDP Forecast Revisions

- RBI raised real GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to 7.3% (from 6.8%).
- Fitch Ratings upgraded the forecast for FY26 to 7.4% (from 6.9%).
- ADB forecast India's growth for FY26 at 7.2%.

43. 30-Day Free Tourist Visa for Russian Nationals

- Russia is one of India's top 15 tourism source markets.
- India announced a 30-day free tourist visa for Russian nationals,.

44. Exercise ‘Harimau Shakti 2025’

- The 5th edition of the India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise “Harimau Shakti 2025” commenced on December 5, 2025.
- Held at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.
- Indian contingent represented by the Dogra Regiment.

45. RBI Revised Norms for Cooperative Banks

- RBI introduced a four-tier regulatory structure for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) based on deposit size,.
 - Tier-1: Deposits up to ₹100 crore.
 - Tier-2: ₹100 crore to ₹1,000 crore.
 - Tier-3: ₹1,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore.
 - Tier-4: Above ₹10,000 crore.

46. Apple Appoints Amar Subramanya as VP of AI

- Apple Inc. appointed Amar Subramanya as its new Vice President of AI.
- He replaces John Giannandrea.

47. HUID Hallmarking for Silver

- Over 17 lakh silver articles have been hallmarked in the first 3 months.
- In FY 2024-25, around 32 lakh silver articles were hallmarked.
- 17.35 lakh articles are now HUID-hallmarked.

48. Tata Electronics & Intel MoU

- Tata Electronics signed a strategic MoU with Intel Corporation.

49. Telangana & Deakin University AI CoE

- The Telangana government signed an agreement with Australia's Deakin University to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in AI.

50. World Soil Day 2025

- Observed on December 5.
- Theme for 2025: "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities".

2. Amounts & Agreements

1. Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Sign Loan Agreements Worth Over USD 800 Million for Multi-Sector Development

- State-wise Breakdown:
 - Maharashtra: Received USD 500 million for the Power Distribution Enhancement Programme. This funding aims to enable the large-scale integration of solar energy to power irrigation pumps,.
 - Madhya Pradesh: Received ₹27.14 billion (approximately USD 190.6 million) for the Indore Metro Rail Project. This will support the construction of an 8.62 km underground metro corridor connecting key transit hubs to the Indore airport,.
 - Gujarat: Received USD 109.97 million for the Skills Development Programme. The funds will upgrade 11 Mega Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and establish Centres of Excellence,.
- Maharashtra: The project aims to benefit 900,000 farmers by 2028 through solar-powered irrigation, reducing dependence on grid electricity and lowering carbon emissions.
- Madhya Pradesh: The metro project will provide eco-friendly and efficient connectivity to the Indore airport by 2030.
- Gujarat: The initiative will enhance industry-academia partnerships and train youth in high-growth sectors, strengthening employability,.

2. Ministry of Defence Signs ₹7,995 Crore Agreement with United States for MH-60R Helicopter Sustainment

- The MH-60R "Seahawk" is a critical asset for the Indian Navy, often referred to as the "Romeo" helicopter.

3. ADB Approves USD 650 Million Loan to Boost India's Rooftop Solar Programme

4. Tata Realty and DBS Bank India Sign ₹1,280 Crore Green Loan Facility

- DBS Bank India is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, with Rajat Verma serving as MD & CEO.
- Tata Realty is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, led by MD & CEO Sanjay Dutt.

3. Appointments & Resignations

1. Vivek Chaturvedi : New Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

2. World Bank Group Appoints Paschal Donohoe as Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer

- Paschal Donohoe has served as Ireland's Minister for Finance since January 2025 and was the President of the Eurogroup (collective of eurozone finance ministers) from 2020 to 2023,.
- In this new position, Donohoe will be part of the senior leadership team of the World Bank's five institutions: IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, and ICSID.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington D.C., US; President: Ajay Banga.

3. Appointment of Usha Janakiraman as Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- Other recent ED appointments include Sonali Sen Gupta and Sanjay Kumar Hansda in October 2025.
- Total Deputy Governors of RBI: 4 (Swaminathan Janakiraman, T. Rabi Sankar, Shirish Chandra Murmu, Poonam Gupta).

4. Vikram Sahu Appointed as CEO of Bank of America N.A. India

- Bank of America N.A. (BANA) India was established in 1964 and is headquartered in Mumbai.
- Bank of America CEO: Brian Moynihan.

5. Praveen Kumar Assigned Additional Charge as Director General of Border Security Force (BSF)

- BSF Motto: "Duty Unto Death".
- BSF Establishment: December 1, 1965.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

6. Extension of Tenure for Arun Kumar Singh as Chairman & CEO of ONGC

- ONGC Headquarters: New Delhi; Founded: 1956.

7. Harmanpreet Kaur Appointed as First Female Brand Ambassador of Punjab National Bank (PNB)

- PNB has appointed Harmanpreet Kaur, captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team and 2025 World Cup champion, as its first-ever female brand ambassador,.
- PNB MD & CEO: Ashok Chandra.

8. Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo Elected as President of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)

9. Jeyandran Venugopal Appointed as First President and CEO of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL)

10. CEC Gyanesh Kumar to Chair the Council of Member States of International IDEA

- International IDEA stands for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

4. Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. Deepavali Inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List during the 20th Session of Intergovernmental Committee Hosted by India

(i) Background / Introduction

- India hosted the 20th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for the first time.
- Deepavali, one of India's most widely celebrated living traditions, was officially inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during this session.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France; Director-General: Khaled El-Enany; Founded: 1945.

2. President of India Confers Shilp Guru and National Handicraft Awards for 2023 and 2024

- The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, conferred the Shilp Guru Awards and National Handicraft Awards for the years 2023 and 2024 in New Delhi.
- Total Awards Presented: 48 awards were presented, comprising:
 - 12 Shilp Guru Awards.
 - 36 National Awards, which included 2 Design & Innovation Awards (artisan-designer collaboration).
- Awardees:
 - 2023: Awards were given to artisans including Heera Bai Jareka Baghel and Imtiaz Anand.
 - 2024: T. Bhaskaran from Tamil Nadu received the award for Stone Carving. Other assignees included Baldev Baghmore and Rupan Chitrakar.
- Women Representation: Among the awardees, 20 were women artisans.
- Economic Goal: The government has set a target of ₹1 lakh crore in exports from the handicraft sector by 2031-32.
- GST Reduction: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) on this sector has been reduced from 18% to 5%.

3. Five Products from Tamil Nadu Receive Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- Five new products from Tamil Nadu have received the GI tag. The products are:
 - a. Woraiyur cotton sari (from Tiruchi).
 - b. Kavindapadi nattu sakkarai (jaggery powder).
 - c. Namakkal makkal pathirangal (soapstone cookware).
 - d. Thooyamalli (traditional rice variety).
 - e. Ambasamudram choppu saman (wooden toys from Tirunelveli).
- With these additions, the total number of GI-tagged products from Tamil Nadu has reached 74.
- State Rankings: Uttar Pradesh currently holds the maximum number of GI tags at 77.
- Other Recent GI Tags:
 - Arunachal Pradesh: Yak Churpi (fermented cheese from Arunachali Yak) and Dao (traditional blade) received GI tags.
 - West Bengal: Darjeeling Mandarin Orange received the GI tag.
 - Jammu & Kashmir: Ramban Sulai Honey gained GI recognition.
- Validity: The validity of a registered GI tag is 10 years.

5. Awards & Prizes

1. TIME Magazine Names 'Architects of AI' as "Person of the Year 2025"

- TIME has named the 'Architects of AI' as its "Person of the Year 2025".
- The group highlighted on TIME's covers includes:
 - Jensen Huang (CEO of Nvidia)
 - Sam Altman (CEO of OpenAI)
 - Demis Hassabis (CEO of Google DeepMind)
 - Dario Amodei (CEO of Anthropic)
- Other notable figures recognized in this group include Karandeep Anand (CEO of Character.AI) for his role in consumer-facing AI platforms.
- Editor-in-chief of TIME Magazine: Sam Jacobs.

2. President Droupadi Murmu Confers National Energy Conservation Awards 2025

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2025 and prizes for the National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation in New Delhi on December 14, 2025.
- Awardees (Industry Sector): Top-performing units recognized included:
 - Munitions India Ltd.
 - JSW Steel
 - Tata Steel
 - Raymond Luxury Cottons
 - Manali Petrochemicals
 - Balrampur Chini Mills

3. BPCL Recognized as Only Indian Company in 'Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars 2025'

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Maharatna PSU, was recognized by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Mind the Bridge as one of the "Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars (CSS) 2025" worldwide.
- BPCL is the only Indian organisation to feature in this global list.
- 'Ankur' initiative was launched in 2016 to invest in early-stage startups in domains like industrial IoT, AI, and predictive maintenance.
- BPCL Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

4. World Athlete of the Year 2025 Titles Awarded

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA) and Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis (Sweden) won the "World Athlete of the Year" titles for 2025 in the Women's and Men's categories, respectively.

- Other Category Winners:
 - Rising Star Awards: Mattia Furlani (Italy) and Sembo Almayew (Ethiopia).
 - President's Award: Bruce McAvaney (Australian sports commentator).
 - Woman of the Year: Ruth Jepchumba Bundotich (Kenya).
 - Coaching Achievement Award: Michael O'Connor (Ireland).
 - Member Federation Award: People's Republic of China.
- Photograph of the Year was awarded to Vegard Grott.

5. President Donald Trump Wins Inaugural FIFA Peace Prize

- FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) is the international governing body of association football, headquartered in Zürich, Switzerland.

(ii) Key Developments / Announcements / Decisions

- President Donald Trump has won the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize.
- The official title of the award is “FIFA Peace Prize - Football Unites the World”.
- FIFA has 211 member associations across six continents.

6. Supriya Sahu Wins UNEP's 2025 Champions of the Earth Award

- The Champions of the Earth award is the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) highest environmental honor.
- Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests (Tamil Nadu), has won the 2025 Champions of the Earth award.
- She was recognized as a climate forerunner tackling urgent environmental challenges.

7. ICAI Sets Guinness World Record for Largest Career Advice Session

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is the apex body for chartered accountants in India.

(ii) Key Developments / Announcements / Decisions

- ICAI set a Guinness World Record for conducting the largest career advice programme session in a single day.
- The event, titled 'Career in Accounting and Finance for Youth (CAFY 4.0) & Super Mega Career Counselling Programme', was held in Mumbai.
- The session saw the gathering of more than 7,400 students, teachers, and principals.
- The eligible record count achieved was 6,166 students, earning the title of the 'Largest careers advice lesson'.
- Pan-India, the total number of participants in the programme exceeded 1.3 lakh.

8. President Murmu Confers National Handicraft Awards 2023-24

- Notable Awardees:
 - 2024: T. Bhaskaran (from Tamil Nadu) for Stone Carving.
 - 2023: Heera Bai Jareka Baghel and Imtiaz Anand.
- 20 women artisans were among the awardees.
- The government aims to achieve ₹1 lakh crore in exports from the handicraft sector by 2031-32.
- GST on this sector has been reduced from 18% to 5% to support artisans.
- The Shilp Guru Award, a higher-tier recognition in this sector, was started in 2002.

9. 56th IFFI Goa: Rajinikanth Honored and “Skin of Youth” Wins Golden Peacock

- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is one of Asia's most significant film festivals. The 56th edition was held in Goa.
- Superstar Rajinikanth was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrating his 50 years in cinema.
- Golden Peacock for Best Feature Film: Won by the Vietnamese film “Skin of Youth”, directed by Ash Mayfair.

10. Rani Channamma Mahila Sahakari Bank Awarded Best Profit-Making Bank

- Rani Channamma Mahila Sahakari Bank (RCMS Bank) received the award for Best Profit-Making Bank in Belagavi District for 2025.
- The bank is headquartered in Belgaum, Karnataka.

6. Banking & Finance

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Cuts Repo Rate to 5.25% and Raises GDP Growth Projection for FY26

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held its 58th meeting from December 3–5, 2025, chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- The central bank described the current macroeconomic environment as a “rare Goldilocks phase,” characterized by strong growth and record-low inflation.
- Repo Rate: Reduced by 25 basis points (bps) from 5.50% to 5.25% with immediate effect.
- Cumulative Cut: This marks a cumulative reduction of 125 bps in the calendar year 2025.
- GDP Projection: The real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for FY26 (2025-26) was revised upward to 7.3% (from an earlier 6.8%).
- Inflation Forecast: The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation projection for FY26 was cut to 2% (down by 0.6% from earlier projections).
- Stance: The MPC decided to continue with a ‘neutral’ stance.
- Q2 FY26 GDP: India’s real GDP growth surged to 8.2% in the second quarter (July–September).
- Current Inflation: Headline inflation averaged 1.7%, dipping to 0.3% in October 2025.

2. RBI Announces ₹1 Lakh Crore OMO Purchase and \$5 Billion Forex Swap to Inject Durable Liquidity

- OMO Purchase: RBI announced Open Market Operation (OMO) purchases of government securities worth ₹1,00,000 crore.
 - This will be conducted in two tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on December 11 and December 18, 2025.
- Forex Swap: RBI will conduct a USD/INR Buy-Sell Swap auction of \$5 billion with a 3-year tenor on December 16, 2025.

3. RBI Classifies SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2025

- The D-SIB framework requires RBI to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 based on their Systemic Importance Scores (SIS). These banks are considered "Too Big To Fail."
- RBI retained State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs in the 2025 list.
- Bucketing and Capital Surcharge (Additional Common Equity Tier 1 - CET1):
 - SBI: Bucket 4 (0.80% additional CET1).
 - HDFC Bank: Bucket 2 (0.40% additional CET1).
 - ICICI Bank: Bucket 1 (0.20% additional CET1).
- HDFC Bank was first classified as a D-SIB in 2017, while SBI and ICICI Bank were classified in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

4. RBI Launches National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30

- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra launched the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30.
- The core framework is termed ‘Panch-Jyoti’, consisting of five objectives.
- The FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the RBI Governor, while the FSDC is chaired by the Finance Minister.

5. RBI Consolidates Regulatory Instructions into 244 Master Directions

- RBI issued 244 consolidated Master Directions (MDs), replacing 9,446 old circulars.
- These directions cover 11 categories of Regulated Entities (REs), including commercial banks, small finance banks, payment banks, NBFCs, and cooperative banks.

6. RBI Issues Final Guidelines for Digital Banking Channels and Customer Consent

- Explicit Consent: It is now mandatory for banks to obtain explicit, recorded consent from customers before providing digital banking services.
- No Forced Bundling: Banks cannot force customers to opt for digital banking channels to avail of basic facilities like debit cards.
- Effective Date: The norms take effect from January 1, 2026.

7. Government Dilutes 6% Stake in Bank of Maharashtra via Offer-for-Sale (OFS)

- Prior to this sale, the government held 79.60% equity in the Bank of Maharashtra (BoM). SEBI norms mandate a minimum public shareholding of 25%.
- (ii) Key Developments / Announcements / Decisions
 - The government decided to sell a 6% stake (5% base size + 1% green shoe option) in BoM through an Offer-for-Sale (OFS).
 - The floor price was set at ₹54 per share.
 - The government expects to raise ₹2,492 crore (also cited as roughly ₹2,600 crore in another source context) from this sale.
 - The government clarified there is no proposal to increase the FDI limit in Public Sector Banks from 20% to 49%.

8. S&P Upgrades Rating for India's Insolvency Regime

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, was introduced to resolve bad loans and insolvency.
- S&P Global Ratings revised India's jurisdiction ranking assessment for its insolvency regime from 'Group C' to 'Group B'.
- The "creditor-friendliness" of the framework was upgraded from 'weak' to 'medium'.

9. Fino Payments Bank Receives RBI Approval for Small Finance Bank (SFB) Transition

- Payment Banks are restricted from lending and accepting deposits over ₹2 lakh. Transitioning to an SFB removes these caps.
- Fino Payments Bank Ltd received 'In-principle' approval from RBI to convert into a Small Finance Bank (SFB).
- A minimum net worth of ₹300 crore is required for this conversion (to be achieved within 18 months).

10. RBI Expands Gold Metal Loan (GML) Framework

- RBI also allowed GML for minting India Gold Coins (IGC) by MMTC.
- Effective Date: The norms take effect from April 1, 2026.
- Pledging Limits: Gold jewellery: 1 kg; Silver jewellery: 10 kg; Gold coins: 50 g; Silver coins: 500 g.

11. ADB Approves \$650 Million Loan for India's Rooftop Solar Programme

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$650 million (approx. ₹5,780 crore) policy-based loan.

12. India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) Widens to 1.3% of GDP in Q2 FY26

- India's CAD widened to 1.3% of GDP in Q2 FY26, up sequentially from 0.2% in Q1 FY26.
- However, it moderated compared to 2.2% in Q2 FY25 (year-ago period).

13. SBI and Bank of India (BOI) Sign MoU for Centre of Excellence

- Both State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of India (BOI) are public sector banks headquartered in Mumbai.
- SBI Chairman: Challa Sreenivasulu Setty.
- BOI CEO: Rajneesh Karnatak.

14. RBI Ombudsman Report FY25: Credit Card Complaints Surge by 20%

- The RBI released the "Annual Report of the Ombudsman Scheme 2024-25".
- Consumer Grievances: Rose by 13.55% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- Credit Card Complaints: Surged by 20.04% to 50,811 cases.
- Private Sector Banks: Accounted for 32,696 complaints, significantly higher than public sector banks (3,021).
- Total Complaints: Rose to 13,34,244 in FY25.
- RBI Campaign: A special two-month drive will run from Jan 1 to Feb 29, 2026 to clear pending grievances.

15. LIC and Yes Bank Enter Bancassurance Partnership

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is India's largest insurer.
- LIC signed a bancassurance pact with Yes Bank to distribute its products through the bank's extensive network.
- LIC also launched two new plans: "Protection Plus" (savings + risk) and "Bima Kavach" (pure risk).
- LIC MD Appointed: Ramakrishnan Chander took charge as MD effective December 1, 2025.

16. SEBI Launches PaRRVA to Verify Performance Claims

- SEBI launched the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA).
- It aims to independently verify historical returns of registered market intermediaries like Investment Advisers (IAs) and Research Analysts (RAs).
- SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey stated this will set a global benchmark for transparency and investor protection.

17. SBI and Bank of Baroda to Set Up 'IDPIC' for Fraud Detection

- SBI and Bank of Baroda (BoB) received RBI approval to set up the Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC).
- It will be a Section 8 (not-for-profit) company under the Companies Act, 2013.

18. PNB Launches 'Luxura' Card and Appoints Harmanpreet Kaur as Brand Ambassador**19. RBI Penalty on HDFC Bank**

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹91 lakh on HDFC Bank Limited.
- The penalty was for contravention of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, specifically regarding 'Interest Rate on Advances' and KYC norms.

20. NBFC Borrowings Projected to Reach \$750 Billion by FY27

- NBFC borrowings are projected to grow at 13% CAGR to reach USD 750 billion by FY27.
- External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) are expected to grow at 60% CAGR.

21. Tata Realty & DBS Bank India Sign ₹1,280 Crore Green Loan

- DBS Bank was recently named "Global Bank of the Year 2025" by The Banker.

22. ADB Loan Agreements for Multiple Indian States

- The Government of India and ADB signed loan agreements totaling \$800 million.
- Maharashtra: \$500 million for Power Distribution Enhancement (rural electrification).
- Gujarat: \$109.97 million for Skills Development Programme (upgrading ITIs).
- Madhya Pradesh: \$190.6 million (approx.) for Indore Metro Rail Project.
- ADB also raised India's GDP forecast for FY26 to 7.2%.

23. PFRDA Permits Pension Funds to Invest in REITs and InvITs

- PFRDA regulates the pension sector in India.
- PFRDA has permitted pension funds to invest in Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).

24. IIT Bombay Launches 'Y-Point' Deep Tech Venture Capital Fund**25. SEBI Introduces SWAGAT-FI for Foreign Investors**

- SEBI introduced "Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors (SWAGAT-FI)".

26. RBI Revised Norms for Cash Credit and Overdraft Accounts

- Banks can now freely open current or OD accounts for customers with aggregate banking exposure of less than ₹10 crore.
- Restrictions on Cash Credit (CC) accounts have been lifted; they are now recognized as core working capital lines.
- For exposures \geq ₹10 crore, only banks with \geq 10% exposure can open full CA/OD accounts.

27. RBI Revised Norms for Cooperative Banks

- UCB Categorization (Tiered):
 - Tier 1: Deposits up to ₹100 crore.
 - Tier 2: ₹100 cr – ₹1,000 cr.
 - Tier 3: ₹1,000 cr – ₹10,000 cr.
 - Tier 4: Above ₹10,000 crore.

28. NPCI International Partners with ACLEDA Bank for UPI in Cambodia

- NIPL is the international arm of NPCI.
- NIPL partnered with ACLEDA Bank Plc. (Cambodia) to enable UPI acceptance in Cambodia.
- It also facilitates the acceptance of Cambodia's national QR network Bakong (KHQR) in India.
- ACLEDA Bank is Cambodia's first publicly listed commercial bank.

29. Department of Posts and BSE Sign MoU for Mutual Fund Access**30. LIC Increases Stake in Cipla**

- LIC's total holding in Cipla increased from 5.025% to 7.055%.

7. Defence Affairs

1. 10th Edition of India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Garuda Shakti' Commences in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh

- The participating contingents include the Indian Army's Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and the Indonesian Army's Special Forces (Kopassus).
- Indonesia Capital: Jakarta; Currency: Indonesian Rupiah; President: Prabowo Subianto.

2. India and Malaysia Conduct 5th Edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Harimau Shakti-2025' in Rajasthan at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges

- The Indian contingent is represented by troops from the Dogra Regiment, while the Malaysian side comprises personnel from the 25th Battalion Royal Malaysian Army.

3. India and Maldives Commence 14th Edition of Joint Military Exercise 'EKUVERIN' in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- The term 'EKUVERIN' means 'Friends' in the Dhivehi language, symbolizing the deep friendship and defence cooperation between India and the Maldives. The exercise has been held alternately since 2009.
- The Indian Army contingent consists of 45 personnel represented by a battalion of GARHWAL RIFLES.
- The Maldivian contingent is represented by the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

4. Ministry of Defence Signs ₹7,995 Crore Deal with USA for MH-60R Helicopter Sustainment

- India purchased 24 MH-60R Seahawk multi-role helicopters from the US in 2020, with deliveries beginning in 2021. These are manufactured by Lockheed Martin.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) finalized a ₹7,995 crore (approx. USD 946 million) agreement with the United States.

5. SIPRI 'Top 100' Arms Producers 2024: Three Indian PSUs Feature in Global Rankings

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its annual "Top 100" list of global arms producers for 2024.
- The combined defence revenue of India's three biggest defence manufacturers rose by 8.2% to \$7.5 billion.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is India's largest defence producer, ranked 44th globally with arms revenue of \$3.8 billion.
- Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) recorded the strongest growth (23.6%) with revenue of \$3.8 billion, ranking 58th.
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL) ranked 91st with revenue of \$1.12 billion.
- SIPRI Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden; Chair: Stefan Lofven.

6. Tata Advanced Systems and Lockheed Martin to Establish India's First C-130J MRO Hub

- Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Lockheed Martin (US) partnered to set up India's first dedicated Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hub for the C-130J Super Hercules in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

7. Zen Technologies Secures ₹120 Crore Contract for India's First Combat Training Node

8. International Affairs

1. India Re-elected to International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council for 2026–27 with Highest Votes in Category B

- The IMO was established following a United Nations convention adopted in 1948 and became operational in 1959.
- India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council for the 2026–27 biennium.
- The election took place during the 34th IMO Assembly Session.
- India secured a record 154 out of 169 votes in Category B,.
- IMO Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- IMO Secretary-General: Arsenio Dominguez.

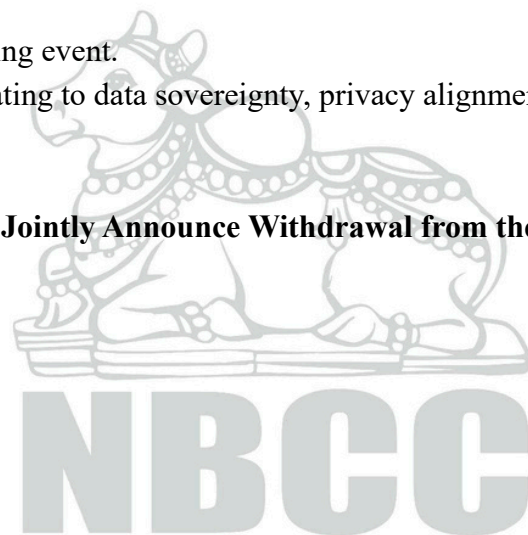
2. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) Partners with ACLEDA Bank to Enable Cross-Border UPI and KHQR (Bakong) Acceptance between India and Cambodia

- NPCI International Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- CEO of NPCI International: Ritesh Shukla.
- Capital of Cambodia: Phnom Penh; Currency: Riel; Prime Minister: Hun Manet.

3. 72 Nations Sign World's First United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime (Hanoi Convention) to Boost Global Cooperation

- This is the world's first universal legislative framework designed to combat cybercrime.
- The treaty is also known as the 'Hanoi Convention'.
- 72 countries (out of the 193 member states) have signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- India has not signed the Convention as of the signing event.
- India's hesitation is reportedly due to concerns relating to data sovereignty, privacy alignment, and cross-border evidence-sharing provisions.

4. West African Nations Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger Jointly Announce Withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC)



9. Meetings & Summits

1. 18th Plenary Meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes Held in New Delhi

- The meeting was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The theme of the meeting was “Tax Transparency: Delivering a Shared Vision Through International Cooperation”.

2. 60th Director General and Inspector General of Police (DGP/IGP) Conference Chaired by PM Modi in Raipur

- The theme of the conference was ‘Viksit Bharat’.

3. NITI Aayog's Water and Sanitation Summit 2025 Inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

- The Water and Sanitation Summit 2025 was inaugurated by Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil,.
- NITI Aayog CEO: B.V.R. Subrahmanyam.

4. Amazon Announces \$35 Billion Investment in India at 6th Amazon Smbhav Summit 2025

- Amazon CEO: Andy Jassy.

5. India Hosts 20th Session of UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

- The session is being held in New Delhi from 8 to 13 December 2025.
- The event is hosted at the Red Fort (Lal Qila) with the Ministry of Culture (MoC) and Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) serving as the nodal agencies.
- For 2025, India has nominated Chhath Mahaparva and Diwali for inclusion in UNESCO's ICH List.
- Currently, 15 Indian elements are inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France.
- The 2003 Convention was adopted at UNESCO's 32nd General Conference in Paris.

6. India-Russia 23rd Annual Summit: Target set for \$100 Billion Bilateral Trade by 2030

10. Miscellaneous

1. Central Government Approves Census 2027: First Digital Census to Include Caste Enumeration

- The last census was due in 2021 but was delayed.
- Census 2027 will be the 16th Census in the country and the 8th after independence.
- The total cost approved for the project is Rs 11,718.24 crore.
- For the first time, the census will include Caste Enumeration.
- It will be a Digital Census conducted using mobile applications.
- The process will be carried out in two phases:
 - i. Phase 1 (House Listing and Housing Census): To be conducted between April and September 2026.
 - ii. Phase 2 (Population Enumeration): To be conducted in February 2027 (with a revision round in March 2027).
- Timeline: House listing in snow-bound areas will begin in October 2026.

2. Cabinet Renames MGNREGA to 'Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Yojana' and Enhances Benefits

- The scheme was originally launched in 2005 as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and later renamed MGNREGA.
- It serves as a critical social security initiative built on the principle of the "right to work" for unskilled rural households.
- The Central government has approved renaming the flagship Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to "Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Yojana".
- The minimum guaranteed employment days under the scheme have been increased from 100 days to 125 days.
- The minimum wage has been revised to Rs 240 per day.
- The objective is to enhance livelihood security for rural families.
- The provision includes 50 additional days of employment in drought or disaster-affected areas.
- Unemployment Benefit: If work is not provided within 15 days, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance (25% of minimum wage for the first 30 days and 50% thereafter).
- Execution: At least 50% of the works are to be executed by Gram Panchayats.

3. Australia Enforces World's First Social Media Ban for Children Under 16

- Capital of Australia: Canberra; Currency: Australian Dollar; Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese.

4. Rajasthan Becomes First State to Achieve 100% Digitization of Electoral Rolls

- Capital of Rajasthan: Jaipur.
- Chief Minister: Bhajan Lal Sharma.

5. India's First All-Electric 'Green Tug' Construction Begins for Deendayal Port

4. CBFC Mandates 50% Women Participation in Certification Committees

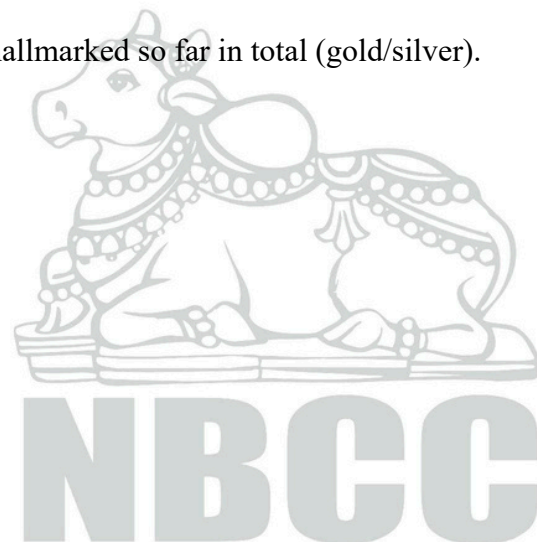
- The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) regulates the public exhibition of films under the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- The CBFC has mandated 50% participation of women in every Examining Committee and Revising Committee constituted for the certification of films.
- This reform was announced by the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan.
- CBFC Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- CBFC Chairperson: Prasoon Joshi.
- Board Tenure: Members hold office for a term not exceeding 3 years.

6. Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha Becomes History's Youngest FIDE-Rated Chess Player

- Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha, a 3-year-old from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, has become the youngest player ever to earn an official FIDE rating.
- He achieved this at the age of 3 years, 7 months, and 20 days.
- He entered the global rating list with a rapid rating of 1572, breaking the previous record held by Anish Sarkar.

7. Mandatory HUID Implementation for Silver Hallmarking Shows Significant Progress

- Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) was introduced to ensure the purity and traceability of precious metals.
- Following the implementation of mandatory HUID for silver, over 17 lakh silver articles have been hallmarked within the first 3 months.
- In FY 2024-25, approximately 32 lakh silver articles were hallmarked in total.
- Purity grades 925 and 800 constitute nearly 90% of all hallmarked items.
- The new Indian Standard for silver covers seven purity grades: 800, 835, 925, 958 (new), 970, 990, and 999 (new).
- More than 56 crore jewellery pieces have been hallmarked so far in total (gold/silver).



11. MoUs

1. Ministry of Labour & Employment Signs MoU with Microsoft to Enhance AI-Led Skilling and Global Job Access

- The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, and Microsoft Chairman & CEO, Satya Nadella,.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Washington, U.S.
- Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella.

2. Karnataka Government Inks MoU with Taiwan's Allegiance International to Establish ₹1,000 Crore Innovation Park

- Karnataka Capital: Bangalore.
- Karnataka Governor: Thaawarchand Gehlot.

3. Nokia and Bharti Airtel Partner to Monetize 5G Network Capabilities via 'Network as Code' Platform

- Nokia Headquarters: Espoo, Finland.
- Bharti Airtel CEO: Gopal Vittal (transitioning to Shashwat Sharma in Jan 2026).

**NBCC**

12. National

1. Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) Granted 'Navratna' Status by Department of Public Enterprises

- Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) is a state-run refinery located in Assam and is a subsidiary of Oil India Limited (OIL).
- It operates under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), under the Ministry of Finance, has granted Navratna status to Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL).
- With this elevation, NRL has become the 27th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to receive Navratna status.
- The Navratna status grants the company greater operational and financial autonomy.
- To be eligible, a CPSE must be a Miniratna Category-I and a Schedule 'A' company. It must also have an "excellent" or "very good" MoU rating in at least 3 of the last 5 years and score 60 or above in six performance indicators.
- NRL is a subsidiary of Oil India Limited.

2. Cabinet Approves 'CoalSETU' Window to Facilitate Coal Linkage for Industrial Use and Exports

- Coking coal will not be offered under this window.

3. Union Home Minister Amit Shah Launches 'Bharat Taxi' – India's First National Cooperative Ride-Hailing App

- Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah, officially launched 'Bharat Taxi', India's first national mobility cooperative owned by drivers.
- The app will be operated by Sahakar Taxi Co-operative Ltd..

4. Cabinet Approves Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Copra for 2026 Season

- The MSP for Milling Copra has been fixed at Rs 12,027 per quintal.
- The MSP for Ball Copra has been fixed at Rs 12,500 per quintal.
- This marks an increase of Rs 445 per quintal for milling copra and Rs 400 per quintal for ball copra over the previous season.
- The MSP ensures a minimum 50% profit margin over the all-India weighted average cost of production.

5. Government Mandates Pre-Installation of 'Sanchar Saathi' App on All Mobile Handsets by 2026

- The mandate applies to all devices sold from March 2026.
- Manufacturers must implement this within 90 days and submit a compliance report within 120 days.
- IMEI is a unique 15–17 digit code that identifies every phone.

6. India Achieves 50% Non-Fossil Fuel Electricity Capacity Target Five Years Ahead of Schedule

- As of 31 October 2025, India's installed non-fossil fuel capacity stands at 259 GW.

7. Government Introduces Two New Bills to Repurpose Taxes on 'Sin Goods' like Tobacco and Pan Masala

8. India's New Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Complex Officially Named 'Seva Teerth'

- Previous Renaming: Rajpath was renamed Kartavya Path.

9. Ministry of Jal Shakti Launches 'Sujalam Bharat' Application for Water Management

- Minister of Jal Shakti: C.R. Patil.

10. Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary Launches 'Sport Age Meerut' Initiative

- Meerut is already a known hub for sports goods manufacturing in India.
- Union Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary launched the "Sport Age Meerut" initiative.

11. Arunachal Pradesh's 'Yak Churpi' and 'Dao' Receive Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- Arunachal Pradesh's "Yak Churpi" and the traditional blade "Dao" have received the GI tag.
- Capital of Arunachal Pradesh: Itanagar; CM: Pema Khandu.

12. National Makhana Board Holds First Meeting; ₹476 Crore Scheme Rolled Out

- The National Makhana Board was established following an announcement in the Union Budget 2025-26.
- The first board meeting of the National Makhana Board was held in New Delhi, chaired by Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi.
- The government approved a Central Sector Scheme for the development of the Makhana ecosystem with an outlay of ₹476.03 crore for the period 2025-26 to 2030-31.
- Institutes like State Agriculture University, Central Agriculture University (Bihar), and NRC Makhana (Darbhanga) will conduct training programs.
- The Board was officially launched by PM Modi in Bihar on September 15, 2025.

13. UPSC Introduces 'Centre of Choice' Facility for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) Candidates

- UPSC Chairman: Dr. Ajay Kumar.

14. NITI Aayog and IBM Release National Roadmap for 'Quantum-Powered Economy'

- NITI Aayog CEO: B.V.R. Subrahmanyam.

15. Gujarat Launches 'Smart Blue Harbours' Pilot Project with FAO

- This is part of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- Gujarat has launched "Smart Blue Harbours", a pilot project for world-class, tech-enabled fishing infrastructure.
- The project is located at Jakhau harbour in Kutch district.
- It is being implemented in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- FAO Headquarters: Rome, Italy.

16. Union Minister Annpurna Devi Launches '100-Day Intensive Awareness Campaign for a Child Marriage Free Bharat'

- The launch took place at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The campaign will conclude on International Women's Day (March 8).
- MoS WCD: Savitri Thakur.

17. Bihar Launches 'Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana' for Government School Students**18. BIS Releases Updated 'National Seismic Zonation Map' Introducing New High-Risk 'Zone VI'**

- The BIS released a majorly updated "National Seismic Zonation Map" under the revised 'Earthquake Design Code 2025'.
- It introduces a new highest-risk category, 'Zone VI'.
- The entire Himalayan arc, spanning from Jammu & Kashmir to other regions, is placed under this new high-risk category, necessitating stricter construction norms.

13. Persons in News

1. Harmanpreet Kaur Appointed as Punjab National Bank's (PNB) First-Ever Female Brand Ambassador
2. Vikram Sahu Appointed as CEO of Bank of America N.A. (India) Following RBI Approval
3. World Bank Group Appoints Paschal Donohoe as Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer
4. Usha Janakiraman Appointed as Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



14. Ranks and Reports

1. India Rises to 'Major Power' Status in Lowy Institute's 2025 Asia Power Index

- The Asia Power Index is an annual assessment published by the Lowy Institute that measures resources and influence to rank the relative power of states in the Indo-Pacific region.
- According to the Lowy Institute's "2025 Asia Power Index", India has officially risen to the category of a 'major power'.
- India secured the 3rd place with a score of 40 out of 100.
- This marks a significant jump from its 2024 classification as a 'middle power', where it held a score of 38.1.

2. India Ranks 8th Globally in Tourism Economy; US Leads Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India

- India has established itself as a global player in the tourism industry, ranking 8th among the largest tourism economies in the world, according to the WTTC Economic Impact Research (EIR).
- Regarding Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India, the United States leads with over 18 lakh arrivals.
- Bangladesh follows as the second-largest source with 17.5 lakh arrivals, followed by the UK (10.2 lakh), Australia (5.2 lakh), and Canada (4.8 lakh).

3. Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Slows to 14-Month Low of 0.4% in October 2025

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- It tracks industrial output across mining, manufacturing, and electricity sectors.
- (ii) Key Developments / Announcements / Decisions
 - Growth in industrial activity slowed to a 14-month low of 0.4% in October 2025.
 - This is a sharp decline compared to the 4% year-on-year growth recorded in September 2025.
 - The base year for IIP is 2011-12.

4. Bengaluru Ranks 16th in Global Tech Cities Index by Savills India

- Bengaluru has been ranked 16th in the Global Tech Cities Index.
- It is the first Indian city to feature in the top 30 global list.
- The top two cities in the index are San Francisco and New York.

5. Ghaziabad Identified as India's Most Polluted City in November by CREA Analysis

- Ghaziabad topped the list of the most polluted cities in India for the month of November.
- Shillong was named among the cleanest cities, alongside cities in Karnataka, Sikkim, and Tamil Nadu.

6. Jindal Stainless Ranks 1st Globally in Stainless Steel Sector in DJSI (Dow Jones Sustainability Index) FY25

15. Schemes & Initiatives

1. RBI Governor Launches National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30 Based on 'Panch-Jyoti' Framework

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra launched the NSFI 2025-30 during the 32nd meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) Sub-Committee,.
- Core Framework: The strategy is built on five key pillars known as 'Panch-Jyoti' (Five Objectives).
 - a. Equitable and affordable services.
 - b. Broader access to financial literacy and education.
 - c. Consumer protection and grievance redressal.
 - d. Effective coordination.
 - e. Customer-centricity.
- Action Points: The strategy includes a total of 47 action points to achieve its objectives.
- FSDC Details: The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is chaired by the Union Finance Minister, while the FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the RBI Governor.
- Duration: The strategy covers the period from 2025 to 2030.

2. Union Government Approves Tex-RAMPS Scheme to Boost Research and Competitiveness in Textile Sector

- The Union Government has approved the Textiles Focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning and Start-up (Tex-RAMPS) Scheme.
- Outlay: The scheme has a total outlay of ₹305 crore.
- Implementation Period: It will be implemented from the financial year 2025–26 to 2030–31.

3. Government Rolls Out ₹476 Crore Central Sector Scheme for Makhana; National Makhana Board Operationalised

- The Union Government fulfilled the announcement made in the Union Budget 2025–26 by establishing the National Makhana Board.
- The Board was officially launched by the Prime Minister in Bihar on September 15, 2025,.
- New Scheme: The government approved a Central Sector Scheme for the Development of Makhana with an outlay of ₹476.03 crore,.
- Implementation Period: The scheme will run from 2025-26 to 2030-31,.
- First Board Meeting: The National Makhana Board held its first board meeting chaired by Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Seed Requirement: The meeting identified the need to consolidate seed requirements, to be supplied by State Agriculture University (SAU) Sabour and Central Agriculture University (CAU) Samastipur, Bihar.
- Training: Institutions like SAU Sabour, CAU Samastipur, and National Research Centre (NRC) Makhana in Darbhanga will conduct training programs for trainers from various states to facilitate cultivation in non-traditional areas.

4. Ministry of MSME Signs MoU with Amazon to Onboard Artisans under PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- The PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched on September 17, 2023, to provide holistic support to artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 traditional trades,.
- So far, 2.72 crore artisans have been enrolled under the scheme.
- The entire scheme is fully funded by the Union Government with an outlay of ₹13,000 crore.
- Scheme Benefits:
 - Toolkit Incentive: ₹15,000 provided via DBT/e-RUPI.
 - Collateral-free Credit: Up to ₹3 lakh at a concessional interest rate of 5% (Tranche 1: ₹1 lakh for 18 months; Tranche 2: ₹2 lakh for 30 months),.
 - Skill Training: 6 days of training with a daily stipend of ₹500.
 - Digital Incentive: ₹1 per digital transaction (up to 100 transactions/month).

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16. Science & Technology

1. Indian Astronomers Discover Ancient Spiral Galaxy “Alaknanda” Formed 1.5 Billion Years After Big Bang

- Researchers Rashi Jain and Yogesh Wadadekar from the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics - Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCRA-TIFR), Pune, have discovered a well-structured spiral galaxy named “Alaknanda”.

2. CSIR-NAL (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Aerospace Laboratories) Launches Production Version of Indigenous “Hansa-3(NG)” Trainer Aircraft to Boost Pilot Training

3. NITI Aayog Releases Roadmap to Position India Among Top Three Global Quantum Economies by 2047

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17. Sports

1. India Clinches Maiden Squash World Cup Title by Defeating Hong Kong in Chennai

- Key performances in the final included:
 - Joshna Chinappa defeated Ka Yi Lee (3-1).
 - Abhay Singh defeated Alex Lau (3-0).
 - Anahat Singh defeated Tomato Ho (3-0).
- Chennai hosted the event, reinforcing its status as a major hub for squash in India.

2. Rohit Sharma Becomes Fourth Indian to Score 20,000 International Runs Across All Formats

- Rohit Sharma became only the 4th Indian and the 14th cricketer worldwide to achieve this milestone.
- He joins the elite list of Indian legends:
 - Sachin Tendulkar (34,357 runs).
 - Virat Kohli (27,910 runs).
 - Rahul Dravid (24,208 runs).

3. Jasprit Bumrah Becomes First Indian Bowler to Claim 100 Wickets in All Three International Formats

- Globally, he is only the fifth bowler to achieve this triple century of wickets, joining an elite list comprising:
 - Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka)
 - Tim Southee (New Zealand)
 - Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh)
 - Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan).

4. India Wins Bronze at FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025; Germany Claims Title

- The FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup is the premier international tournament for under-21 field hockey players. The 2025 edition was held in Tamil Nadu (Chennai and Madurai).
- India secured the Bronze medal by defeating Argentina in a sensational comeback victory.
- Germany won the Gold medal and the title by defeating Spain with a score of 3-2 in the final.
- This victory marked India's first podium finish in the tournament since 2016.
- Germany extended its record with its 8th title, remaining ahead of India and Pakistan, who have 6 titles each.
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, and led by President Mohammad Tayyab Ikram.

5. Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha Becomes Youngest FIDE-Rated Chess Player in History

- The International Chess Federation (FIDE) assigns ratings to players based on their performance in official tournaments. The minimum rating requirement is usually 1400.
- Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha, hailing from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, created history by becoming the youngest player ever to earn an official FIDE rating.
- He achieved this milestone at the age of 3 years, 7 months, and 20 days.
- Sarwagya broke the previous record held by Anish Sarkar by nearly two months.
- He entered the global rating list with an impressive rapid rating of 1572.
- Sarwagya was born in 2022.

6. Indian Shooters Win 6 Medals at ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha

- The Indian contingent concluded their campaign at the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 held in Doha, Qatar.
- India won a total of 6 medals: 2 Gold, 3 Silver, and 1 Bronze.
- Gold Medal Winners:
 - Simranpreet Kaur (Women's 25m Pistol)
 - Suruchi Singh (Women's 10m Air Pistol).

(iii) Significance / Impact

- Suruchi Singh set a new ISSF Junior World Record in the 10m Air Pistol final with a score of 245.1 points.
- Simranpreet Kaur matched the junior world record in her event.

(iv) Any Important Information

- Silver Winners: Sainyam (10m Air Pistol), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (50m Rifle 3 Positions), Anish Bhanwala (25m Rapid Fire Pistol).
- Bronze Winner: Samrat Rana (10m Air Pistol).

7. 16-Year-Old Deeya Yadav Becomes Youngest Player Signed in WPL Auction

- The Women's Premier League (WPL) is India's premier T20 cricket league for women. The auction for the 2026 season recently took place.
- She was bought by Delhi Capitals at her base price of ₹10 lakh.

8. India Wins 20 Medals at 25th Summer Deaflympics 2025 in Tokyo**NBCC**

18. Static News

1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- APEC is a regional economic forum established to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.
- Established: 1989.
- Secretariat: Singapore.
- Members: 21 member countries.
- India's Status: India is NOT a member. China opposes India's entry to prevent another power from emerging in the group.

2. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

- Headquarters: Lyon, France.
- Membership: 195 countries.
- It issues 8 types of notices (e.g., Red Notice) for various police alerts

3. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- Established on: 1st April, 1935.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Governor: Sanjay Malhotra (26th).
- Deputy Governors (4): Swaminathan Janakiraman, T. Rabi Sankar, Shirish Chandra Murmu, and Poonam Gupta.
- Operates under the RBI Act, 1934

4. Border Security Force (BSF)

- Established on: December 1, 1965.
- Headquarters: Delhi.
- Raising Day: 61st Raising Day observed on December 1.
- Primary Task: Guarding India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. Considered the "First Line of Defence."
- Motto: "Duty Unto Death"

5. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- Founded in: 1945.
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Director-General: Dr. Qu Dongyu.

6. World Trade Organization (WTO)

- Founded: 1995.
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (7th DG, from Nigeria).
- Members: 166 countries.

7. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- Established in: 1992.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey.
- Recently notified regulations regarding Merchant Bankers and introduced the PaRRVA (Past Risk and Return Verification Agency)

8. NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

- Established: 2015 (Effective from 2017 per some contexts, replaced Planning Commission).
- Chairperson: Prime Minister (Narendra Modi).
- Vice Chairman: Suman K. Bery.
- CEO: B.V.R. Subrahmanyam.
- Launched the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in 2016.

9. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- Founded in: 1956.
- Headquarters: Mumbai.
- CEO: R. Doraiswamy.
- (iii) Significance / Impact:
 - Largest institutional investor in India.
 - Tagline: 'Yogakshemam Vahamyaham' (Your welfare is our responsibility),.

10. National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Director General (DG): Sadanand Vasant Date.
- Recently approved a cable-car project in J&K.

11. Doordarshan (DD)

- India's autonomous public service broadcaster.
- Established on: September 15, 1959.
- Ministry: Operates under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- PM Modi recently praised its "Suprabhatam" program for promoting Indian values.

12. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

- Established in: 1986.
- Headquarters: Noida.
- Chairman: Sunil Paliwal.

13. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Established in: 1958.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman: Samir V. Kamat.
- Recently handed over 7 indigenous technologies to the Armed Forces,.

14. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

- The regulatory body for the overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India.
- Founded in: 2003.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairperson: Sivasubramanian Ramann.
- Regulates the National Pension System (NPS).
- Permitted pension funds to invest in REITs and InvITs,.

15. National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)

- Established in: 1951.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- President: Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo (2025-2029).

16. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

- Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden.
- Chair: Stefan Lofven.
- Recently released the "Top 100" global arms producers list for 2024.

17. Geographical Indications (GI) Registry

- Responsible for administering the GI of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- Location: Chennai, Tamil Nadu (under DPIIT).
- Validity: A registered GI tag is valid for 10 years.
- Tamil Nadu recently received tags for products like Woraiyur cotton sari, taking its total to 74.

18. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- A nationwide plan in India to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages.
- PMGSY-I Launched: December 2000.
- PMGSY-II Launched: 2013.
- Funding Pattern: 60:40 (Centre:State) for most states; 90:10 for Northeastern/Himalayan states.
- Eligibility covers habitations with 500+ persons in plains and 250+ in hilly areas.

19. Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- A government-backed pension scheme aimed at the unorganized sector.
- Launched on: 9th May 2015.
- Eligibility: Age 18-40 years.
- Provides a guaranteed minimum pension ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000/month starting at age 60.
- Crossed 8.34 crore enrolments, with women constituting 48% of subscribers.

20. Startup India Initiative

- Launched on: January 16, 2016 (Celebrated as National Startup Day).

21. TIME Magazine

- First Issue Published: March 3, 1923.
- Headquarters: New York, US.
- Editor-in-Chief: Sam Jacobs.
- Known for its "Person of the Year" award.
- Named 'Architects of AI' as Person of the Year 2025.

22. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

- Founded in: 1952.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Chairman & MD: Sanjay Khanna (additional charge).
- Recognized as one of the "Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars" globally.
- Launched the 'Ankur' startup initiative in 2016

23. Press Club of India

- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- President: Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty (First woman president).
- Afzal Imam elected as Secretary General

24. National Statistical Office (NSO)

- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairperson: Prof. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar.

25. Census of India

- Legal Framework: The Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990.
- Census 2027 will be the 16th Census of the country and 8th after independence.
- It will be the first Digital Census and will capture Caste data electronically,.

26. 1971 Indo-Pak War & Nupi Lal Day

- 1971 War: Commemorates victory over Pakistan and creation of Bangladesh. Includes Operation Trident (Navy attack on Karachi, Dec 4) and Operation Python (Dec 8).
- Nupi Lal Day: Observed on 12 December in Manipur to honor women's uprisings in 1904 and 1939 against British policies.

27. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- A committee of the RBI responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate.
- Structure: 6 Members (3 from RBI, 3 Govt-nominated).
- Decision Making: Each member has one vote; Governor has a casting vote in case of a tie.
- Target: Maintain CPI inflation at 4% with a tolerance band of $\pm 2\%$ (2–6%).
- Adopted in 2016 via amendment to the RBI Act,.

28. Navratna and Miniratna Status

- Classifications for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) granting them financial autonomy.
- Eligibility for Navratna: Must be a Miniratna Category-I and a Schedule 'A' company.
- Performance: Must score 60+ in six performance indicators.
- MoU Rating: "Excellent" or "Very Good" rating in at least 3 of the last 5 years.

29. Apollo Hospitals / Pharmacy

- Founded in: 1983.
- Founder: Prathap Reddy.
- Aims for 100 million customers in the next five years.
- (iv) Any Important Information:
 - Apollo Pharmacy targets significant expansion.

30. International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- Established: Convention adopted in 1948, operational in 1959 [Note: Source 25 says 1984, but source 513 corrects to 1959].
- Headquarters: London, UK.
- Secretary-General: Arsenio Dominguez.
- India re-elected to Category B of the IMO Council,.

31. European Union (EU)

- Members: 27 member countries.
- Climate Goal: Aims for carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Current leaders: Antonio Costa (Council), Ursula von der Leyen (Commission), Roberta Metsola (Parliament).

32. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
- Indian Minister Kirtivardhan Singh represented India at the 7th Assembly in Nairobi.

33. SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication)

- A global member-owned cooperative connecting banks for financial messaging.
- Connects: 11,500 banks globally.
- Code Structure: Can be 8 or 11 characters.
- 8-Char: Bank (4), Country (2), Location (2). 11-Char: Adds Branch Code (3)

34. Important Days (December)

- Dec 1: World AIDS Day (Est 1988).
- Dec 1: BSF Raising Day (61st).
- Dec 2: National Pollution Control Day (Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 1984).
- Dec 4: Indian Navy Day.
- Dec 5: World Soil Day / International Volunteer Day.
- Dec 7: International Civil Aviation Day / Armed Forces Flag Day (since 1949).
- Dec 8: SAARC Charter Day (since 1985).

35. Bank Headquarters and Taglines

- Bank of India: HQ Mumbai; Tagline: "Relationship Beyond Banking".
- State Bank of India (SBI): HQ Mumbai.
- J&K Bank: HQ Srinagar; Founded 1938; Tagline: "Serving to Empower".
- ICICI Bank: HQ Mumbai; Tagline: "Hum Hain Na!", "Khayal Apka".
- HDFC Bank: HQ Mumbai; Tagline: "We understand your World".
- Punjab National Bank (PNB): HQ New Delhi; Tagline: "The Name You Can Bank Upon".
- Bank of Baroda: HQ Vadodara; Tagline: "India's International Bank"

36. UNESCO World Heritage & ICH

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- Headquarters: Paris, France.
- ICH Convention: Adopted in 2003.
- Indian Elements: 15 elements currently inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) (before new nominations like Diwali).
- India has served 3 terms on the ICH Committee

37. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

- Enacted: 2016.
- Regulator: Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- Recovery: Average recovery values improved to 30+% (up from 15-20% pre-IBC).
- Resolution Time: Reduced to ~2 years (down from 6-8 years).

38. Languages on Indian Currency

- Total Languages: 17 languages appear on the panel.
- Composition: English + Hindi + 15 Regional Languages.
- Signatures: RBI Governor signs all notes except the 1 Rupee note, which is signed by the Finance Secretary.

39. PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- A central sector scheme to support traditional artisans and craftspeople.
- Launched on: September 17, 2023.
- Funding: Fully funded by the Union Government with an outlay of ₹13,000 crore.
- Coverage: Supports artisans of 18 traditional trades.
- Enrollment: 2.72 crore artisans enrolled so far

19. Question and Answers

1. Which entity described the Indian economy as being in a "Goldilocks phase" while cutting the repo rate to 5.25%? Ans: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. How much funding did the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approve for Maharashtra's Power Distribution Enhancement Programme? Ans: USD 500 million.
3. What is the value of the sustainment agreement signed between the Ministry of Defence and the USA for MH-60R helicopters? Ans: ₹7,995 crore (approx. USD 946 million)
4. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer of the World Bank Group? Ans: Paschal Donohoe (former Finance Minister of Ireland)
5. Who took charge as the CEO of Bank of America N.A. (India) succeeding Kaku Nakhate? Ans: Vikram Sahu
6. Which Indian cricketer was appointed as the first-ever female brand ambassador of Punjab National Bank? Ans: Harmanpreet Kaur
7. Who was elected as the first woman President of the Press Club of India? Ans: Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty
8. Whose tenure as the Chairman and CEO of ONGC was extended by one year until December 2026? Ans: Arun Kumar Singh
9. Which festival was inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage during the UNESCO session hosted in New Delhi? Ans: Deepavali
10. Who conferred the Shilp Guru and National Handicraft Awards for 2023 and 2024? Ans: President Droupadi Murmu.
11. How many new products from Tamil Nadu, including the Woraiyur cotton sari, recently received the GI tag? Ans: Five products
12. Which group did TIME Magazine name as the "Person of the Year 2025"? Ans: The 'Architects of AI' (including Jensen Huang and Sam Altman)
13. Who won the "World Athlete of the Year 2025" titles for women and men respectively? Ans: Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis
14. Who was awarded the inaugural "FIFA Peace Prize"? Ans: US President Donald Trump
15. Which film won the Golden Peacock for Best Feature Film at the 56th IFFI Goa? Ans: "Skin of Youth" (Vietnamese film)
16. Which Indian PSU was the only one to feature in the "Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars 2025" list globally? Ans: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
17. What is the new policy repo rate after the RBI's December 2025 MPC meeting? Ans: 5.25%
18. What is the revised real GDP growth projection for India for 2025-26 according to the RBI? Ans: 7.3%
19. What is the new CPI inflation projection for 2025-26? Ans: 2%
20. What is the value of the Open Market Operation (OMO) purchase of government securities announced by the RBI? Ans: ₹1,00,000 crore
21. Which three banks were retained as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2025? Ans: SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank
22. What is the additional CET1 requirement for SBI under the D-SIB framework? Ans: 0.80%
23. What is the name of the framework underpinning the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30? Ans: Panch-Jyoti

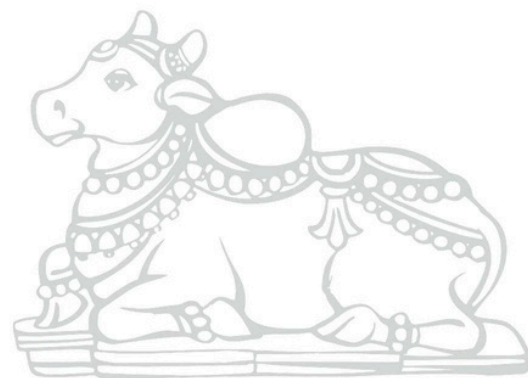
24. What is the new FDI limit approved for the insurance sector? Ans: 100%
25. Which rating agency upgraded India's insolvency regime from 'Group C' to 'Group B'? Ans: S&P Global Ratings
26. What deposit size classifies an Urban Cooperative Bank as Tier-4 under the new RBI norms? Ans: Above ₹10,000 crore
27. What percentage of stake did the government decide to sell in the Bank of Maharashtra via Offer-for-Sale? Ans: 6%
28. How much revenue does the government expect to raise from the Bank of Maharashtra stake sale? Ans: Approx ₹2,492 crore
29. Which payments bank received in-principle approval to transition into a Small Finance Bank? Ans: Fino Payments Bank
30. What is the minimum net worth required for a Payments Bank to convert to a Small Finance Bank? Ans: ₹300 crore
31. What is the maximum loan tenor for domestic borrowers under the revised Gold Metal Loan norms? Ans: 270 days
32. What was India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) as a percentage of GDP in Q2 FY26? Ans: 1.3%
33. By what percentage did credit card complaints surge in FY25 according to the RBI Ombudsman report? Ans: 20.04%
34. Which bank did LIC sign a bancassurance partnership with to distribute its products? Ans: Yes Bank
35. What is the name of the agency launched by SEBI to verify claims of investment advisers? Ans: PaRRVA (Past Risk and Return Verification Agency)
36. Which two banks are setting up the 'Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation' (IDPIC)? Ans: SBI and Bank of Baroda
37. What is the value of the green loan signed between Tata Realty and DBS Bank India? Ans: ₹1,280 crore
38. Which regulator permitted pension funds to invest in REITs and InvITs? Ans: PFRDA
39. What is the name of the single window access introduced by SEBI for foreign investors? Ans: SWAGAT-FI
40. Which Cambodian bank partnered with NPCI International to enable UPI acceptance? Ans: ACLEDA Bank Plc
41. How much loan did ADB approve to accelerate rooftop solar adoption in India? Ans: \$650 million
42. What is now mandatory for banks to obtain before providing digital banking services? Ans: Explicit consent from customers
43. What is the name of the premium card launched by PNB with Harmanpreet Kaur as brand ambassador? Ans: Luxura
44. What was the penalty amount imposed by RBI on HDFC Bank for regulatory non-compliance? Ans: ₹91 lakh
45. Which two banks signed an MoU to establish a Centre of Excellence for Strategic Partnership? Ans: SBI and Bank of India
46. What is the projected growth rate (CAGR) for NBFC borrowings to reach \$750 billion by FY27? Ans: 13%
47. How many member countries are there in APEC? Ans: 21
48. Is India a member of APEC? Ans: No
49. Where is the headquarters of INTERPOL located? Ans: Lyon, France
50. On what date was the Reserve Bank of India established? Ans: April 1, 1935

51. Who is the current (26th) Governor of the RBI? Ans: Sanjay Malhotra
52. Under which Act does the RBI operate? Ans: RBI Act, 1934
53. When was the Border Security Force (BSF) established? Ans: December 1, 1965
54. What is the motto of the BSF? Ans: "Duty Unto Death"
55. Where is the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)? Ans: Rome, Italy
56. Where is the headquarters of the World Trade Organization (WTO)? Ans: Geneva, Switzerland
57. How many members does the WTO have? Ans: 166
58. In which year was SEBI established? Ans: 1992
59. When was NITI Aayog established to replace the Planning Commission? Ans: 2015
60. Who is the current CEO of NITI Aayog? Ans: B.V.R. Subrahmanyam
61. What is the tagline of LIC? Ans: 'Yogakshemam Vahamyaham' (Your welfare is our responsibility)
62. When was Doordarshan (DD) established? Ans: September 15, 1959
63. Where is the headquarters of DRDO located? Ans: New Delhi
64. In which year was the PFRDA founded? Ans: 2003
65. Where is the headquarters of SIPRI? Ans: Stockholm, Sweden
66. For how many years is a GI tag valid? Ans: 10 years
67. When was PMGSY-I launched? Ans: December 2000
68. What is the eligible age range for the Atal Pension Yojana (APY)? Ans: 18-40 years
69. When was the Startup India Initiative launched? Ans: January 16, 2016
70. Where is the headquarters of TIME Magazine? Ans: New York, US
71. Where is the headquarters of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)? Ans: Mumbai, Maharashtra
72. Which operations are commemorated on Navy Day (Dec 4) regarding the 1971 war? Ans: Operation Trident
73. How many members constitute the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)? Ans: 6 members
74. What is the RBI's inflation target tolerance band? Ans: 2% to 6% ($4\% \pm 2\%$)
75. What performance score is required for a CPSE to be eligible for Navratna status? Ans: 60 or above
76. Who is the founder of Apollo Hospitals? Ans: Prathap Reddy
77. Where is the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)? Ans: London, UK
78. How many member countries are in the European Union (EU)? Ans: 27
79. Where is the headquarters of UNEP? Ans: Nairobi, Kenya
80. How many characters can a SWIFT code have? Ans: 8 or 11
81. On which date is World AIDS Day observed? Ans: December 1
82. On which date is Indian Navy Day observed? Ans: December 4
83. What is the tagline of ICICI Bank? Ans: "Hum Hain Na!", "Khayal Apka"
84. How many regional languages appear on the panel of Indian currency notes? Ans: 15
85. Who signs the 1 Rupee note? Ans: Finance Secretary
86. How many traditional trades are covered under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme? Ans: 18
87. Which joint special forces exercise was conducted between India and Indonesia in Himachal Pradesh?
Ans: Garuda Shakti
88. Which joint military exercise involves the Indian and Malaysian armies? Ans: Harimau Shakti
89. What is the name of the joint military exercise between India and Maldives held in Kerala? Ans: EKVVERIN

90. Which three Indian PSUs featured in SIPRI's "Top 100" global arms producers list for 2024? Ans: HAL, BEL, and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
91. Which company partnered with Lockheed Martin to set up India's first C-130J MRO hub? Ans: Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)
92. To which category of the IMO Council was India re-elected for the 2026–27 biennium? Ans: Category B
93. What is the common name for the world's first UN Convention Against Cybercrime? Ans: Hanoi Convention
94. Did India sign the Hanoi Convention during the signing event? Ans: No
95. Which three West African nations announced their withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC)? Ans: Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger
96. Where was the 6th edition of the "Amazon Smbhav Summit" held? Ans: New Delhi
97. Where did India host the 20th Session of the UNESCO ICH Committee? Ans: Red Fort, New Delhi
98. What was the theme of the 18th Global Forum on Transparency held in New Delhi? Ans: "Tax Transparency: Delivering a Shared Vision Through International Cooperation"
99. Who chaired the 60th DGP/IGP Conference in Raipur? Ans: PM Narendra Modi
100. Who inaugurated NITI Aayog's Water and Sanitation Summit 2025? Ans: Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil
101. What is the bilateral trade target set by India and Russia for 2030? Ans: \$100 Billion
102. What is the approved cost for conducting the Census of India 2027? Ans: ₹11,718.24 crore
103. What has the MGNREGA scheme been renamed to? Ans: "Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Yojana"
104. What is the new minimum guaranteed employment days under the renamed MGNREGA? Ans: 125 days
105. Which country enforced the world's first social media ban for children under 16? Ans: Australia
106. What percentage of women participation has been mandated in CBFC certification committees? Ans: 50%
107. Which purity grades constitute nearly 90% of all hallmarked silver items? Ans: 925 and 800
108. Which new purity grades were introduced in the Indian Standard for silver hallmarking? Ans: 958 and 999
109. Which state became the first in India to achieve 100% digitization of electoral rolls? Ans: Rajasthan
110. Where is India's first all-electric 'Green Tug' being built? Ans: Cochin Shipyard Limited (for Deendayal Port)
111. What is the new MSP for Milling Copra for the 2026 season? Ans: ₹12,027 per quintal
112. Which ministry signed an MoU with Microsoft to enhance AI-led skilling? Ans: Ministry of Labour & Employment
113. With which international company did Karnataka sign an MoU to establish a ₹1,000 Crore Innovation Park? Ans: Allegiance International (Taiwan)
114. Which telecom major partnered with Nokia to monetize 5G capabilities via the 'Network as Code' platform? Ans: Bharti Airtel
115. With whom did the Ministry of MSME sign an MoU to onboard artisans under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme? Ans: Amazon
116. Which company became the 27th CPSE to receive Navratna status? Ans: Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)

117. What is the name of the window approved by the Cabinet to facilitate coal linkage for industries and exports? Ans: CoalSETU
118. What is the name of India's first national cooperative ride-hailing app launched by Amit Shah? Ans: Bharat Taxi
119. Which app has been mandated for pre-installation on all smartphones by 2026? Ans: Sanchar Saathi
120. What percentage of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources has India achieved? Ans: 50%
121. What is the new official name of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) complex? Ans: Seva Teerth
122. What is the name of the application launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti for water management? Ans: Sujalam Bharat
123. Which initiative did Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary launch in Meerut? Ans: Sport Age Meerut
124. Which products from Arunachal Pradesh recently received the GI tag? Ans: Yak Churpi and Dao
125. What is the outlay of the central sector scheme for Makhana development? Ans: ₹476.03 crore
126. What new facility did UPSC introduce for PwBD candidates? Ans: Centre of Choice
127. With which company did NITI Aayog release a roadmap for a 'Quantum-Powered Economy'? Ans: IBM
128. Where is the 'Smart Blue Harbours' pilot project being implemented? Ans: Jakhau harbour, Gujarat
129. What is the duration of the awareness campaign for a 'Child Marriage Free Bharat'? Ans: 100 days
130. Which state launched the 'Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana' for school students? Ans: Bihar
131. Which new high-risk category was introduced in the updated 'National Seismic Zonation Map'? Ans: Zone VI
132. What was the growth rate of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in October 2025? Ans: 0.4%
133. How much did the sustainment deal for MH-60R helicopters cost? Ans: ₹7,995 crore
134. Which Indian airport was certified as 'Water Positive' at the Water Innovation Summit? Ans: IGI Airport (Delhi)
135. For nationals of which country did India announce a 30-day free tourist visa? Ans: Russia
136. Which Apple executive was appointed as the new Vice President of AI? Ans: Amar Subramanya
137. Who has been appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of the RBI? Ans: Usha Janakiraman
138. Who was appointed as the Managing Director of the World Bank? Ans: Paschal Donohoe
139. Who secured a one-year tenure extension as Chairman of ONGC? Ans: Arun Kumar Singh
140. What is India's rank in the Lowy Institute's 2025 Asia Power Index? Ans: 3rd (Major Power)
141. What is India's global rank in the tourism economy according to WTTC? Ans: 8th
142. Which country leads Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India? Ans: United States
143. What was the IIP growth rate in October 2025? Ans: 0.4% (14-month low)
144. Which Indian city ranked 16th in the Global Tech Cities Index? Ans: Bengaluru
145. Which city was identified as India's most polluted in November by CREA? Ans: Ghaziabad
146. Which company ranked 1st globally in the stainless steel sector in the DJSI FY25? Ans: Jindal Stainless
147. Which Indian company was named in the "Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars" globally? Ans: BPCL
148. What is the total outlay for the Tex-RAMPS scheme approved by the government? Ans: ₹305 crore
149. How much funding has been allocated for the Makhana development scheme (2025-2031)? Ans: ₹476.03 crore
150. What is the limit for collateral-free credit under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme? Ans: Up to ₹3 lakh

151. What is the concessional interest rate for loans under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme? Ans: 5%
152. What is the duration of the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) launched by RBI? Ans: 2025-2030
153. What is the name of the ancient spiral galaxy discovered by Indian astronomers? Ans: Alaknanda
154. Which indigenous trainer aircraft had its production version launched by CSIR-NAL? Ans: Hansa-3(NG)
155. Which country did India defeat to win its maiden Squash World Cup title? Ans: Hong Kong
156. Who became the fourth Indian cricketer to score 20,000 international runs? Ans: Rohit Sharma
157. Who became the first Indian bowler to claim 100 wickets in all three international formats? Ans: Jasprit Bumrah
158. Which country won the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025 title? Ans: Germany
159. What medal did India win at the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025? Ans: Bronze
160. Who became the youngest FIDE-rated chess player in history at age 3? Ans: Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha
161. Who won the F1 World Drivers' Title in 2025? Ans: Lando Norris
162. How many medals did Indian shooters win at the ISSF World Cup Final 2025? Ans: 6 medals
163. Who became the youngest player ever signed in the WPL auction at 16 years old? Ans: Deeya Yadav
164. How many medals did India win at the 25th Summer Deaflympics 2025? Ans: 20 medals



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