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## NATIONAL

### Overview of 56th IFFI Held in Goa from 20 to 28 November 2025

The 56<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held from November 20 to 28, 2025, in Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Panaji, Goa.

- IFFI 2025 features **Japan** as the Country of Focus, **Spain** as the Partner Country, and **Australia** as the Spotlight Country.

#### About IFFI 2025:

**Theme:** The festival highlights the “**Convergence of Creativity and Technology**,” showcasing how modern tech is reshaping filmmaking.

**Organizers:** The event was organized by the National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), in collaboration with the State Government of Goa, and the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG).

**Opening Film:** The film “**The Blue Trail**” by Brazilian Director Gabriel Mascaro was screened as the Opening Film.

**Closing Film:** A Thai film “**A Useful Ghost**” by Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke was screened as the Closing Film.

### PM Narendra Modi Chairs 60th All India Conference of DGsP & IGsP in Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** chaired the **60th All India Conference of Director Generals of Police (DGsP) and Inspector Generals of Police (IGsP)** held at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Raipur in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

- The conference was held from November 28 to 30, 2025, under the theme titled “**Viksit Bharat: Security Dimensions**”.

#### About 60th All India Conference of DGsP & IGsP:

**Dignitaries:** Several dignitaries, including Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ajit Doval, the National Security Advisor of India; were present.

**Participation:** The conference witnessed the physical participation of DGsP and IGsP from all States and Union Territories (UTs), heads of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and Central Police Organizations and virtual participation of over 700 officers of various ranks.

#### Key Outcomes:

**Technology Utilization:** During the Conference, PM Narendra Modi emphasized the innovative use of technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), under MHA, for actionable diligence, strengthening coastal security, and tackling drug abuse.

**Proactive Measures:** The conference also discussed **Policing Roadmap for Vision 2047**, Counterterrorism and Counter-radicalization strategies, Women’s safety using technology, strategies to bring back Indian fugitives abroad, and strengthening forensic capabilities for effective investigations.

**Awards:** During the conference, PM Narendra Modi distributed the **President's Police Medals** for Distinguished Service to officers of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), MHA.

### **BIS Unveiled India's New Seismic Map: Entire Himalayas Placed under Highest-Risk Danger Zone**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (**BIS**), statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD), unveiled a **revised seismic zonation map** under the updated Earthquake Design Code 2025(BIS, 2025), incorporating data on active faults, maximum probable events, attenuation patterns, tectonics, and lithology.

#### **About New Seismic Map:**

**Updated Zonation:** Previously divided into Zones II–V, India's seismic map now includes a newly introduced Zone VI, the highest-risk category.

**PSHA:** As per the BIS, the new quake map had been created using globally accepted Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (**PSHA**) methods that include detailed data on active faults, the maximum potential magnitude on each fault, the tectonic regime of each region, among others.

**PEMA:** The new seismic map has introduced a new concept known as the 'Exposure Window' which takes into account population density, infrastructure, and socio-economic vulnerability through the Probabilistic Exposure and Multi-Hazard (**PEMA**) methodology.

**Expansion in Area of Risk:** The map further revealed that **61% of India's** landmass now lies in **moderate to high hazard zones**, marking one of the major shifts in seismic hazard assessment in decades.

**Population Vulnerable to Risk Zones:** The newly released map showed that **75% of the Indian population** lives in seismically active regions.

### **GoI Renamed Prime Minister's Office to 'Seva Teerth'**

The Government of India (**GoI**) renamed the news Prime Minister's Office (**PMO**) complex as '**Seva Teerth**(Seva Teerth)' to highlight its focus on service-oriented, citizen-centric governance.

- Following a directive from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the official residences of Governors and Lieutenant Governors (Raj Bhavan/Raj Niwas) were redesignated as **Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas** respectively.

#### **Key Details of Renaming:**

**Location:** The new complex is part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project and was previously known as the '**Executive Enclave**'.

### **Overview of Russian President Vladimir Putin's Visit to India from December 4 to 5, 2025**

President of Russia **Vladimir Putin** was on a two-day official visit to India from 4 to 5 December 2025, at the invitation of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, to attend the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit.

- The visit marks the **25th** anniversary of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership, which was established in 2000.

### Highlights of Russian President Vladimir Putin's Visit to India:

**Key Events:** PM Narendra Modi hosted a private dinner for Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, gifting him a Russian-language edition of the **Bhagavad Gita** as a gesture of goodwill.

- On December 5, 2025, President of India Droupadi Murmu welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin to Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi and hosted a banquet in his honor.

**23rd India–Russia Annual Summit:** PM Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin participated in the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit held at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

- During the Summit, a **Joint Statement** was released highlighting key agreements, areas of cooperation, and shared strategic priorities between the two countries.
- Both the leaders welcomed the adoption of the **Programme 2030** for strategic economic cooperation and emphasized removing trade barriers, improving logistics, payment systems, and connectivity to reach a **USD 100 billion trade target by 2030**.

**Other Announcement:** During Russian President Vladimir Putin's Visit to India, PM Narendra Modi announced that the Government of India (GoI) will offer a **free 30-day e-tourist visa** to Russian citizens.

- Russia has formally joined the International Big Cats Alliance (**IBCA**), an initiative led by the GoI, focused on conservation of Big Cats Worldwide.

### Rajasthan Becomes First State to Digitize 100% of Voter Rolls Under SIR

Rajasthan became the first state to complete 100% digitisation of its 5.46 crore voter rolls under the Special Intensive Revision(**SIR**) – 2026 exercise, led by Chief Electoral Officer(CEO) Navin Mahajan. Utilising ECINET (Election Commission India Network), Booth Level Officers (BLO) app, and portal verification, the state achieved 97% nationwide mapping leadership with only 3% voters needing documents during claims.

**100% Digitization of Electoral Rolls:** In Rajasthan, every entry in the voter list has been digitised, verified, and mapped. No paper-based or partially digitized entries remain. **SIR:** It is a nationwide program conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to update and verify voter lists, remove duplicates or deceased voters, enroll new voters, ensure each other's voter data is correct and mapped to the correct polling station.

- SIR-2026 aims to bring all states to full digital and geographic verification standards.

**Timeline:** Draft electoral roll releases December 16, 2025; claims-objections window Dec 16-Jan 15, 2026; final publication February 14, 2026.

### Union Minister Amit Shah Released Gujarati Edition of ‘Chunotiya Mujhe Pasand Hai’

Union Minister **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), released the Gujarati edition of the biography titled **‘Chunotiya Mujhe Pasand Hai’ (Challenges I Like)**, based on the life of Uttar Pradesh (UP) Governor **Anandiben Patel**, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel and UP Governor Anandiben Patel were present at the event.
- The book, originally authored in Hindi by Vinay Joshi, Ashok Desai, and Pankaj Jani, was published in May 2025 by Prabhat Prakashan.

#### About the biography :

**Overview:** The Gujarati edition highlights Anandiben Patel’s journey from a modest upbringing to becoming Gujarat’s first woman CM and the 2nd women Governor of UP after Sarojini Naidu, emphasizing her principle of purpose-driven leadership.

### Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Flagged Off India’s 1st Indigenous Hydrogen-Fuel Cell Vessel in Varanasi, UP

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW), flagged off **India’s 1st indigenous Hydrogen powered FCV(Fuel Cell Vessel) Pilot-01**, during a ceremony held at Namo Ghat in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP), on the Ganga River (National Waterway-1).

- The initiative supports India’s long-term plans, Maritime India Vision 2030 (**MIV 2030**) and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (**MAKV 2047**), promoting clean inland water transport, smart infrastructure, and alternative fuels.

#### About India’s 1st Hydrogen Fuel Vessel:

**Background:** In November 2022, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cochin Shipyard Limited (**CSL**) to construct India’s 1st hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel for operation in Varanasi and electric hybrid vessels for UP and Assam.

**Specifications:** This 24 meter (m)-long hydrogen-powered catamaran, owned by IWAI, was indigenously designed and built by **CSL** as a pilot project under MoPSW’s **‘Harit Nauka’** initiative.

### Former Indian Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan Unveils Autobiography ‘The One: Cricket, My Life and More’

Former Indian Cricketer **Shikhar Dhawan** unveiled his autobiography titled **“The One: Cricket, My Life and More”**, published by **HarperCollins India**, at an event in New Delhi, Delhi.

- **Publisher:** HarperCollins India

#### About Autobiography:

**Overview:** In his book, Shikhar Dhawan shared his early years and cricketing dreams, highs of

international success, setbacks, personal life and relationships.

**Career:** He made his debut in One Day International (ODI) in 2010, Twenty-20 International (T20I) in 2011, and in Test matches in 2013. He is the highest run-scorer of the 2013 International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy. He is one of the fastest Indians to score 5,000 ODI runs.

- He played under various Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises such as Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), Delhi Capitals(DC), and Punjab Kings(PBKS).

### **NHAI Launched India's First Wildlife-Safe Road on NH-45 in Madhya Pradesh**

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), launched India's first 'wildlife-safe road' on a 2-kilometre (km) ghat section of the 11.96-km Hiran–Sindoor stretch of National Highway 45 (NH-45) in Madhya Pradesh (MP).

- The initiative aims to reduce animal-vehicle collisions while ensuring smooth highway connectivity through ecologically sensitive zones.

#### **About NH-45 Wildlife Safety Project:**

**Project Details:** A 11.96 km stretch between Bhopal–Jabalpur on NH-45, costing Rs.122 crore and targeted for completion by 2025, focuses on road safety, wildlife protection, and tourism growth.

**Location:** The Hiran–Sindoor section of NH-45, around 60 km from Jabalpur, passes through the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (VDTR) and near Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary(WLS).

**Wildlife Species:** Habitat of tigers, deer, sambar, jackals, and other wildlife.

**Red Markings:** 5-millimeter (mm)hot-applied thermoplastic red surface with raised chequered texture, inspired by Dubai's Sheikh Zayed Road, laid over a 2 km ghat section to slow vehicles in wildlife zones.

**Wildlife Infrastructure:** Includes 25 underpasses, 8-ft iron fencing, wildlife cameras, and speed detection devices.

**Policy Alignment:** Implemented under MoRTH's 2015 Green Highways Policy to ensure sustainable and wildlife-friendly highway development.

### **'Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood' Biography by Mohar Basu Released**

HarperCollins India released the biography 'Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood', written by award-winning journalist **Mohar Basu**, ahead of 60th birthday of actor Salman Khan.

**Overview:** Covers Salman Khan's three-decade career, tracing his journey from debut to iconic roles in Prem, Bajrangi, and Tiger, and showcasing his versatility across romance, comedy, and action films.

**Persona & Insights:** The book celebrates Salman Khan's status as a 'mass' hero and his enduring stardom, featuring rare photographs, fan stories, and perspectives from long-time collaborators.

**About Author:** Mohar Basu, award-winning entertainment journalist and Chief Correspondent (Entertainment) at Midday, also authored Shah Rukh Khan (2024, HarperCollins) and was featured in the Indian Achievers Club '40 under 40' list.

### President Droupadi Murmu Gives Assent to SHANTI Bill 2025, Opening Civil Nuclear Sector to Private Players

President Droupadi Murmu has granted assent to the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (**SHANTI Bill, 2025**), which was passed by both houses of Parliament.

- The SHANTI Act, 2025 allows private companies and Joint Ventures(JV) to build, own, operate, and decommission nuclear power plants under government licensing and regulatory oversight.

#### Background:

**Introduced by:** Union Minister of State (MoS) **Jitendra Singh**, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), introduced the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (**SHANTI Bill, 2025**), after prior approval from the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.

**Legal Reform:** The Bill seeks to replace the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (**CLND Act, 2010**), and open India's nuclear power sector to private and foreign participation.

#### About Atomic Energy Bill, 2025 (SHANTI):

**Vision:** Seeks to expand India's nuclear power capacity from about 8.9 gigawatt (GW) to **100 GW by 2047** to support clean energy goals, ensure energy security, and contribute to the net-zero target by 2070.

**FDI Policy:** The Bill permits Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to **49%** in the nuclear power sector.

### President gives assent to VB-G RAM Bill 2025 replacing MGNREGA

The President of India (PoI) Droupadi Murmu officially approved the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025, a significant milestone in the transformation of rural employment policy.

- The Act replaces the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005** with a modern statutory framework that enhances livelihood security and is aligned with the national vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

#### Key Features

**Enhanced Employment Guarantee:** As per the **Section 5(1)** of the Act, the statutory wage employment guarantee increases from 100 to **125 days** per rural household in each financial year (FY) to households whose adult members volunteer to undertake **unskilled** manual work.

**Farm-Labour balance:** The **Section 6** of the Act facilitates adequate availability of agricultural labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons, empowering States to notify an aggregated pause period aggregating to **sixty days** in a FY.

- The full **125-days** employment guarantee remains intact and will be provided during the rest of the year, ensuring both farm productivity and worker security.

### India Achieves 20% Ethanol Blending with Petrol in November 2025

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) announced that India achieved **20% ethanol blending in petrol** in November 2025, achieving the target ahead of the original 2030 goal under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

**India's**

#### Ethanol Blending and Supply Update:

**Ethanol Blending:** In November 2025, ethanol blending in petrol reached 20%, up from 19.97% in October, with PSU OMCs receiving 45.5 crore litres and 77.8 crore litres in storage.

**Feedstock Allocation:** To support the 20% ethanol blending target by October 2026, the government approved 52 Lakh Tonnes(LT) of surplus Food Corporation of India (FCI) rice for ethanol production for Ethanol Supply Year(ESY)2024-25 and 2025-26, and 40 LT of sugar for ESY 2024-25.

**Ethanol Supply:** For ESY 2025-26 (November–October), 100 crore litres are scheduled for November 2025, 200 crore litres for December 2025–January 2026, and the remaining supply is planned as 280 crore litres (February–April), 250 crore litres (May–July), and 220 crore litres (August–October).

### VP C.P. Radhakrishnan Releases Book 'Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti' in New Delhi, Delhi

Vice President (VP) of India, **C.P. Radhakrishnan** released a book titled "**Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti**", authored by Vasudev Devnani, Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, at the VP's Enclave in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The book pays tribute to former Prime Minister(PM) Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his centenary birth anniversary celebrations.

**Book Significance:** The VP described the book as a timely contribution highlighting Vajpayee's eternal vision rooted in Sanatan values. He portrayed Vajpayee as "not merely an individual but an institution" embodying principles, democratic ideals, nationalism, and inclusiveness.

**About Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti:** The book emphasizes the importance of moral values, cultural heritage, and nation-building, drawing inspiration from the vision of former Prime Minister (PM) of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose life exemplified dedication, integrity, and leadership rooted in Indian traditions.

### Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel's New Book 'The Great Sanctions Hack' Released

Former Reserve Bank of India(RBI) Governor **Urjit Patel**, who is currently serving India's Executive Director (ED) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), released its latest book titled '**The Great Sanctions Hack**'.

- The book was published by **Rupa Publications India**.

### Union Minister JP Nadda Lays Foundation of India's First PPP-Model Medical Colleges in MP

Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), along with Madhya Pradesh (MP) Chief Minister (CM), **Dr Mohan Yadav**, laid the foundation stones for **India's first** medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (**PPP**) model in the tribal-dominated districts of **Dhar** (MP) and **Betul** (MP).

**India's First PPP-Model Medical Colleges**

**Scope:** They are part of **four** planned PPP-based medical colleges in MP: Dhar, Betul, Katni, and Panna, linked to existing district hospitals to enhance healthcare services.

**PPP Model:** Under the Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) framework, the State Government provides land and administrative oversight, while private partners construct and manage academic and clinical infrastructure.

**District Hospital Linkage:** The colleges will be connected to existing district hospitals, which will be upgraded to meet National Medical Commission (NMC) standards while remaining under state administration.

**Dhar College:** Dhar Medical College spans 25 acres, costs **Rs 260 crore**, and is partnered with Swami Vivekananda Shiksha Dham Foundation.

**Betul :** The medical college in Betul is expected to be constructed at an approximate cost of **Rs. 300 crore**.

### **VP C.P. Radhakrishnan Released Book 'Economic Empowerment of Bharat in the Modi Era'**

Vice President (VP) of India **C.P. Radhakrishnan** released a book titled "**Economic Empowerment of Bharat in the Modi Era**", authored by Professor Dr. Sikander Kumar, Member of Parliament (MP), at an event at VP's Enclave in New Delhi, Delhi.

#### **About the Economic Empowerment of Bharat in the Modi Era Book:**

**Overview:** The book is a comprehensive narrative of India's economic journey and policy reforms under Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's leadership, focusing especially on the period since 2014.

**Economic Changes:** The book aims to document and interpret key economic changes and governance reforms in India during the Modi era, linking them to the idea of economic empowerment for the people of India.

**Reforms:** The book includes policy reforms such as Insolvency laws, Digital governance and transparent banking systems, Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) connectivity, Goods and Services Tax (GST).

### **MoCA Grants NOCs to AI Hind Air, FlyExpress, and Shankh Air**

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (**MoCA**) granted No Objection Certificates (**NOCs**) to 2 new airlines namely **AI Hind Air** and **FlyExpress**, joining Shankh Air, which had previously received its NOC. All three airlines are expected to commence operations in **2026**.

- This decision was taken by the MoCA after mass cancellations by Interglobe Aviation Ltd (IndiGo), India's largest airline, nearly crippled one of the world's fastest growing aviation markets.

**Key Details:**

**AOC Certificate:** These newly approved airlines are now required to secure an Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), under the MoCA.

**About New Airlines:**

- Al-Hind is owned by Kerala-based travel and tourism conglomerate, Alhind Group.
- FlyExpress is supported by Hyderabad(Telangana) based courier and cargo services company.
- Shank Air is currently being launched by Uttar Pradesh(UP's) Shank Aviation Private Limited. It aims to operate from Noida International Airport.

**Status of India's Domestic Aviation Market:**

**Monopoly of Two Major Air Groups:** At present, India's domestic aviation market is dominated by IndiGo and Tata-owned Air India Group.

- Together, these airlines account for nearly **90%** of passenger traffic.
- Currently, IndiGo alone accounts for over 65% of the market share; followed by Air India Group which holds about 27%.

**President Murmu Releases Constitution in Santhali Language**

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu officially released the Constitution of India in the **Santhali language** using the **Ol Chiki script** during a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- During the event, President appreciated the efforts of Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J) and his team for writing the Constitution in Santhali language.

**About Santhali Language:**

**Dignitaries Present:** Vice President(VP) C. P. Radhakrishnan and Minister of State(MoS) (Independent Charge, IC) Arjun Ram Meghwal, MoL&J were among the dignitaries present at the event.

**Official Language:** The Santhali language was included in the **8th Schedule of the Constitution** as one of the official languages through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.

- At present, **22 Indian languages** are recognised as official languages of India, listed under the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

**Spoken Across:** The Santhali Language, one of the most ancient living languages in India, is spoken widely by a large tribal community across Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal (WB), and Bihar.

**About the Script:** This launch coincides with Ol Chiki script 100th year.

## INTERNATIONAL

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

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

- **Jakarta**(Indonesia) has become the **world's most populous city** with 41.9 million residents, while **Dhaka**(Bangladesh) and **Tokyo**(Japan), rank second and third with 36.6 million and 33.4 million inhabitants, respectively.
- **New Delhi**, India, ranks fourth among the world's most populous cities, with a population of **30.2 million**.

#### About World Urbanization Prospects 2025:

**Overview:** The WUP 2025 is the **22nd** edition of the series. It provides annual population estimates for the period 1950–2025 and projections up to 2050.

- The minimum population threshold for cities has been lowered from 300,000 to **50,000 inhabitants**, resulting in an increase in the number of cities analyzed to over 12,000.

**Methodology:** For the first time, the 2025 edition of the World Urbanization Prospects presents population estimates and projections for three “**Degree of Urbanization**” categories: cities, towns and rural areas.

#### Key Highlights:

**Other Top 10 Most Populous City:** Shanghai(China), ranks fifth with 29.6 million residents, while Guangzhou(China), is sixth with 27.6 million.

- Cairo(Egypt), the only non-Asian city in the top ten, is seventh with 25.56 million, followed by Manila(Philippines), with 24.7 million.
- **Kolkata**(West Bengal, WB), and Seoul, South Korea, both have populations of 22.5 million, ranking ninth and tenth, respectively.

### Asia Power Index 2025: USA Retained Top Position; India Secured 3rd Rank

Australian think tank, Lowy Institute released the 7th edition of Asia Power Index. As per 2025 rankings, India secured the **3rd** position in Asia region, with overall power score of **40** out of 100, surpassing the threshold for classification as a ‘**Major Power**’ status.

- Last year, India was ranked among the ‘Middle Powers’, with an overall score of 38.1.
- The United States of America (**USA**) (1st)and **China** (2nd)retained their position as the only ‘**Superpowers**’ in Asia, with an overall score of 80.4 points and 73.7 points, respectively.

**About Asia Power Index 2025:**

**Countries Assessed:** This latest edition of Asia Power Index assesses the power of 27 countries and territories across Asia.

**Classification:** The index has classified countries into 4 main power categories based on their overall score: **Superpowers** (more than equal to 70 points); **Major Powers** (more than equal to 40 points); **Middle Powers** (more than equal to 10); and **Minor Powers** (less than 10 points)

**Key Findings:**

**Middle Power Countries:** Japan (4th), Russia (5th), Australia (6th), South Korea (7th), Singapore (8th), Indonesia (9th), Malaysia (10th), Thailand (11th), Vietnam (12th), New Zealand (13th), Taiwan (14th), the Philippines (15th), Pakistan (16th), North Korea (17th), and Brunei (18th).

**Minor Powers:** **Papua New Guinea** (27th) ranked lowest in the index with an overall score of 4.6 points; followed by Timor-Leste (ranked at 26th spot, 4.8 points); Nepal (ranked at 25th spot, 5.0 points); Mongolia (ranked at 24th spot, 6.0 points) and Myanmar (ranked at 23rd spot, 7.1 points).

**Oxford University Press Names ‘Rage Bait’ as Word of the Year 2025**

Oxford University Press (OUP) announced the word “**Rage Bait**” as the **Word of the Year 2025**. The usage of the term “Rage Bait” has tripled in 2025, reflecting its growing presence in social media to increase outrage and polarize conversations.

**About the word ‘Rage Bait’:**

**Origin:** The term first appeared in 2002 on Usenet, initially describing irritated driver reactions to overtaking signals, sowing the seeds for its current meaning of intentional provocation.

**Definition:** Rage Bait is defined as an online content deliberately designed to elicit anger or outrage by being frustrating, provocative, or offensive, typically posted in order to increase traffic to or engagement with a particular web page or social-media content.

**Meaning:** It denotes an online content designed to cause anger or outrage to generate engagement such as likes, comments, shares, in social media. It differs from clickbait which raises curiosity.

**Other Shortlisted Words:** Words such as “Aura farming” and “bio hack” were on the list.

**Arton Capital’s Passport Index: UAE Topped as the World’s Strongest Passports ; India Ranked 67th**

Canada based global financial advisory firm **Arton Capital** released the **2025 Passport Index**. As per the index, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) retained its position as the **world’s strongest passport** for the **7th** consecutive year, with an overall Mobility Score(MS) of **179**, allowing visa-free access to **126** destinations, visa-on-arrivals in 45 countries and Estimate Time of Arrival (ETA) access to 08 countries.

- It is followed by **Singapore** and **Spain** which are placed jointly at 2nd spot in the index, with both countries securing an overall MS of 175.
- **India** ranked **67th** globally with a mobility score of 74, granting visa-free access to 74 countries, covering 37% of the world.

**Highlights of Passport Index 2025:**

**3rd Ranked Countries:** The 3rd spot was shared by **18 countries** namely, Belgium, France, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Luxembourg, Italy, Denmark, Portugal, Switzerland,

Greece, Austria, Malaysia, Norway, Ireland, South Korea, and Japan with overall MS of 174.

**Top 3 Countries in Individual Ranking System:** The UAE (1st), Singapore (2nd) and Spain (3rd).

**Global Dominance:** The index showed that **European** passports continue to dominate the global rankings as countries like: Spain, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, among others were featured among the world's top 20 countries.

**Bottom 5 Countries:** **Afghanistan (94th)** with an overall MS of 38, ranked lowest in the Global Passport Power Index; followed by Syria (93rd), Iraq (92nd) and Pakistan and Somalia (91st).

### Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Jordan from December 15 to 16, 2025

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi was on a 2-day official visit to Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from December 15 to 16, 2025 as the 1st leg of his 3-nation tour (Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman), at the invitation of His Majesty **King Abdullah-II ibn Hussein of Jordan**.

- The visit of PM Narendra Modi to Jordan coincided with the **75th** anniversary of India–Jordan diplomatic relations.

#### Highlights of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Jordan:

**Arrival:** On December 15 2025, PM Modi arrived at airport in Amman, where he was received by **Jafar Hassan, PM of Jordan** and accorded a ceremonial welcome.

**High-Level Meeting:** During his visit, PM Modi met in restricted and delegation level formats with His Majesty King Abdullah-II of Jordan at the Al Husseiniya Palace in Amman.

- **Key Focus Areas:** Both leaders agreed to strengthen engagement between the two countries in the fields of trade and investment; defence and security; renewable energy; fertilizer and agriculture; innovation, Information Technology (IT) and digital technologies; critical minerals; infrastructure; health and pharma; education and capacity; tourism and heritage and culture and people-to-people ties.
- **Enhance Bilateral Trade:** During the meeting, PM Modi proposed that both countries should aim to enhance bilateral trade to **USD 5 billion** over the **next 5 years**.
- **Digital Payments:** He also proposed to foster collaboration between Jordan's digital payment system and India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

### Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Oman from December 17 to 18, 2025

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi was on a 2-day official visit to **Oman** from December 17 to 18, 2025 as the final leg of his 3-nation tour that included Jordan and Ethiopia, at the invitation of **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said**, the Sultan and PM of Oman. This visit marked his second visit to Oman.

- His visit coincided with the **70th** anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

**Highlights of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Oman:**

**Bilateral Meeting:** PM Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Sultan of Oman, at the Royal Palace (in Muscat), where he was accorded a ceremonial welcome.

**India-Oman Business Forum:** PM Narendra Modi attended the India-Oman Business Forum held in Muscat, Oman. He was accompanied by Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I); and **Rajiv Memani**, President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

- During the forum, the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (**OCCI**) and the **CII** signed an MoU to boost economic collaboration between Indian and Omani businesses.

**Conferred with Order of Oman:** During the visit, PM Modi was conferred with the “**Order of Oman**”, the highest civilian honor of Oman, by Sultan Haitham bin Tarik during a special ceremony held in Muscat.

- This marks **29th** foreign state honor conferred on PM Modi, during his 11 year tenure as PM of India.

**Quad Partners Successfully Conducted 1st FTX on Sidelines of ‘Operation Christmas Drop’**

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (**QUAD**) partners including India, the United States of America (USA), Australia and Japan, successfully conducted their 1st Field Training Exercise (**FTX**) held from December 08 to 12, 2025, on the sidelines of ‘**Operation Christmas Drop**’ at Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB), Guam (the USA).

- The exercise aimed to enhance shared logistics capacity for quick and effective responses to regional humanitarian needs.
- **Key Focus:** To enhance Disaster Response Capabilities of QUAD Partners

**About FTX:**

**ILPN:** The exercise operationalised coordination under the Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (**ILPN**), a Quad framework aimed at strengthening logistics interoperability, information sharing, and coordinated logistics support during Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (**HADR**) operations.

**Training Activities:** The exercise bolstered the disaster response capacity of QUAD partners through training activities like: boarding a Japan Air Self-Defence Force (**JASDF**) **C-130H** transport aircraft.

- It was mainly focused on improving interoperability and coordination capabilities of QUAD partners.

**About Operation Christmas Drop:** Launched in 1952, Operation Christmas Drop is the world's longest-running humanitarian airlift mission, conducted by the United States Air Force (USAF). It is carried out annually for about two weeks in December across Pacific island nations, with the primary objective of delivering food, medical supplies, and other essential relief materials to remote and isolated island communities.

#### **About QUAD:**

**Nature of Group:** It is an informal group of 4 countries that aims to strengthen cooperation, ensure maritime security, economic growth, and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific, countering China's rising influence in the region.

**Background:** The QUAD group was originally conceptualised by Japan's then Prime Minister (PM) Shinzo Abe in 2007. But, the group was formally revived in 2017.

**QUAD Leaders' Summit:** The 1st QUAD Leaders' Summit was held virtually in 2021.

- In 2024, The USA hosted the 4th QUAD Leaders' Summit held in Wilmington.
- India is the host country for 5th QUAD Leaders' Summit which is scheduled to be held in 2025.

#### **Brazil Hands Over BRICS Presidency to India for 2026**

Brazil formally handed over the rotating BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) presidency to India during the 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting, held from December 11–12, 2025 in Brasília(Brazil).

- India will officially assume the chairmanship on **January 1, 2026**.

#### **About BRICS Handover:**

**Symbolic Handover:** Brazil passed a sustainably crafted wooden gavel, made by the Novo Airão community from Amazonian trees, to India's sherpa, symbolizing environmental consciousness, shared responsibility, and enduring BRICS cooperation.

**Transition & Term:** Brazil's Sherpa, Ambassador **Mauricio Lyrio**, handed over the gavel to India's Sherpa, Ambassador **Sudhakar Dalela**, while Brazil remains the formal chair until 31st December 2025.

#### **Brazil's 2025 BRICS Presidency Achievements:**

**Theme:** Focused on “Strengthening Global South Co-operation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance.”

**Key Achievements:** Brazil launched health and Artificial Intelligence (AI) partnerships, approved the first Climate Finance Framework, advanced trade and multilateral dialogue with expanded 11-member BRICS, and issued the Rio Declaration with 126 commitments.

#### **India's 2026 BRICS Presidency Priorities:**

**2026 Presidency:** India's presidency for 2026 will be structured around a “**humanity-first approach**” proposed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. **4 Pillars:**

#### **About BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa):**

**Formation:** BRICS was established as BRIC(Brazil, Russia, India, China) in

September **2006** following United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) discussions and was formally institutionalized as an intergovernmental organization in **2009**.

**Expansion:** In September 2010, South Africa joined the group, adding the “S” and renaming it BRICS; later, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE joined in 2024, followed by Indonesia in 2025.

### **Russia Plans to Build Nuclear Power Plant on the Moon by 2036**

Russia has announced plans to build a nuclear power plant on the Moon by 2036, aimed to boost its lunar space program and a joint Russian-Chinese Research Station.

#### **Key Details:**

**MoU Signed:** The Russian space agency, **Roscosmos** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with aerospace agency **Lavochkin Association** to build the Lunar power plant on the moon.

**Recent Setback:** Russia's space ambitions suffered a massive setback in August 2023 when its unmanned **Luna-25 mission** crashed into the surface of the Moon.

### **India Ranks 3rd in Rare Earth Reserves with 6.9 million tonnes REO, China Tops the List**

India ranked 3rd in Rare Earth reserves with 6.9 million tonnes (MT) of Rare Earth Oxide (**REO**) reserves, accounting for around 6 to 7% of global reserves, in a report released by Amicus Growth.

- **China** ranked first with 44 MT of REO and **Brazil** (approximately 21 MT) secured second place.

**About Rare Earth Elements (REE) :** Rare earth elements are a group of 17 metallic elements with unique magnetic, optical, and chemical properties and are high-grade, economically extractable deposits.

#### **Highlights of the Report:**

**Other Top 10 countries:** Australia ranked 4th with 5.7 MT, Russia (5th rank) (3.8 MT), Vietnam (6th rank) (3.5 MT), Malaysia (7th rank) (2 MT), Thailand (8th rank) (1.9 MT), United States of America (USA) (9th rank) (1.9 MT), and Burundi (1.5 MT).

**REE Production:** In 2024, India produced around 2,900 tonnes, which is less than 1% of global production, placing it 7th globally. China produced about 270,000 tonnes in 2024, securing first place.

- The USA produced 45,000 tonnes and secured second place, followed by Myanmar (31,000 tonnes) (3rd place), Nigeria (4th), Thailand (5th), and Australia (6th), each produced around 13,000 tonnes.
- Russia produced (8th), Madagascar (9th) around 2,500 tonnes, and Vietnam (10th) (300 tonnes).

#### **About the Ministry of Mines (MoM):**

**Union Minister** – G Kishan Reddy (Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana)

**Minister of State (MoS)** – Satish Chandra Dubey (Rajya Sabha – Bihar)

## DEFENCE

### India Launched Operation Sagar Bandhu Amid Cyclone Ditwah Devastation in Sri Lanka

The Government of India(GoI) has launched **Operation Sagar Bandhu** to provide Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) to **Sri Lanka** following widespread rains, floods, strong winds, and landslides caused by Cyclone Ditwah.

- **Guiding Policy:** Neighbourhood First Policy and Vision MAHASAGAR.

#### About Cyclone Ditwah:

**Name:** The name Ditwah, proposed by **Yemen** after Socotra's scenic Detwah Lagoon, was added to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) Panel's list by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

**Naming by IMD:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD), acting as the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC), officially assigns this name to a tropical cyclone once sustained winds reach 62 kilometers per hour (km/h).

#### Operation Sagar Bandhu:

**India's Naval Deployment:** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant and INS Udayagiri delivered bulk relief supplies to Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**Airlift:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed C-130J and IL-76 military transport aircraft from Hindan Air Base to airlift National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams and 21 tonnes of relief materials to Colombo.

### India Maldives Joint Military Exercise “EKUVERIN 2025” Begins in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

The Indian Army(IA) and the Maldives National Defence Force(MNDF) commenced the **14th** edition of the annual bilateral military exercise '**EKUVERIN**' at **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. The exercise will continue for two weeks, concluding on 15 December 2025.

#### Background:

**Drill:** Conducted annually since **2009**, EKUVERIN is a bilateral military exercise held alternately in India and the Maldives.

**Meaning :** The word EKUVERIN means “Friends” in Dhivehi, a Maldivian Language, symbolizing the enduring bilateral relationship.

**Previous Edition:** The 13th edition of the EKUVERIN exercise took place in the Maldives in February 2025.

**Historical Ties:** India was among the first countries to recognize Maldives post-independence in 1965; strong cultural, linguistic, religious, and commercial links underpin cooperation.

#### About EKUVERIN 2025 Exercise:

**Aim:** The exercise aims to strengthen defence cooperation, enhance interoperability, and improve Counter-Insurgency/Counter-Terrorism (**CI/CT**) capabilities in semi-urban, jungle, and coastal terrains.

**Contingents:** A 45-member IA battalion from the Garhwal Rifles is participating alongside an equally sized contingent from the MNDF.

## Indian Army Conducts Combat Launch of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile in Bay of Bengal

The Indian Army (IA)'s Southern Command conducted a successful combat launch of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from a test range in the **Bay of Bengal**, accurately striking its target and reaffirming India's long-range precision strike and operational readiness.

- **Developer?** BrahMos Aerospace (Joint venture of DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia)

### About the launch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile:

**Launch Coordination:** The mission, executed by a BrahMos unit of the Southern Command in coordination with the Tri-Services Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), involved a missile capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea, and air platforms against both surface and sea targets.

**Development:** BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile developed by **BrahMos Aerospace**, a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia (NPOM).

**Missile Specifications:** 2-stage propulsion (solid booster + liquid ramjet), 290-650 Kilometer(km) range, 200-300 Kilogram(kg) warhead, fire-and-forget guidance, low Radar cross section(RCS) stealth design.

**Background:** BrahMos, named after the Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia) rivers, is a supersonic cruise missile first tested on 12th June 2001 at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha, and is currently deployed by the IA, IN, and IAF.

## India-Malaysia Military Exercise 'Harimau Shakti' Commenced in Rajasthan

The **5th** edition of the joint military exercise '**Harimau Shakti 2025**' between Indian Army(**IA**) and **Royal Malaysian Army** commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Range (**MFFR**) in Rajasthan.

- The exercise will continue till December 18, 2025, aimed to enhance interoperability in sub-conventional operations under the United Nations (UN) Chapter VII mandate.
- **Contingents:** DOGRA Regiment (India) and 25th Battalion RMA

### About Exercise Harimau Shakti:

**Overview:** It is a bilateral military exercise conducted annually between the armies of India and Malaysia, since 2012.

**Key Participants:** The Indian contingent is led by the troops from the **DOGRA Regiment**, while the Malaysian contingent is represented by troops from the 25th Battalion Royal Malaysian Army (RMA).

**Exercise Curriculum:** As part of joint military exercise, both countries will practice tactical actions such as cordon search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, among others.

- Apart from these activities, Army Martial Arts Routine (AMAR), combat reflex shooting and Yoga will also form the part of the exercise curriculum.

**Previous Edition:** The 4th edition of joint military exercise Harimau Shakti was held in Bentong Camp, Malaysia.

#### **About Malaysia:**

Prime Minister (PM)- Anwar Ibrahim

**Capital-** Kuala Lumpur

**Currency-** Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)

#### **IAF Hosts Bilateral Air Exercise AviaIndra-2025 with Russia**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) commenced the 3rd edition of **Exercise AviaIndra (2025)**, a bilateral air exercise with the Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFASF), scheduled to be conducted from 15th December to 22nd December 2025 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The exercise aims to enhance bilateral defence cooperation, improve mutual understanding, and strengthen aerospace operational synergy.

#### **About Exercise AviaIndra-2025:**

**Strategic Ties:** The exercise reflects the long-standing, trust-based defence partnership between India and Russia and reinforces continued military engagement.

**Participating Assets:** The drills involve Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighters, indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, IL-78 aerial refuellers, and Mil Mi-17 helicopters operating in an integrated manner.

**Operational Scope:** Joint missions include air superiority tasks, coordinated aerial manoeuvres, tactical planning, and exchange of best practices.

**Technology Focus:** India and Russia emphasized collaboration in niche military technologies and indigenous capability development under initiatives like Make in India.

**Background:** The AviaIndra series, launched in 2014, is a biennial India–Russia air exercise focused on joint flying operations and operational coordination.

**Previous editions:** Exercise AviaIndra was conducted in two phases, with Phase I held in Russia and Phase II in India for both the 2014 and 2018 editions.

#### **India-UAE Joint Military Drill ‘DESERT CYCLONE-II’ Commenced at Abu Dhabi**

The **2nd** edition of the joint military exercise **“DESERT CYCLONE-II”** between the armies of India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), commenced at Abu Dhabi, the capital city of UAE, that will run **till December 30, 2025**.

- The two-week long military exercise aimed to enhance interoperability and foster defence cooperation between the Indian Army (IA) and the UAE Land Forces through joint training in urban environments.
- The exercise will focus on sub-conventional operations under a United Nations (UN) mandate, enabling the forces of both countries to operate together in peacekeeping, counter-terrorism and stability operations.

#### **About Desert Cyclone-II:**

**Key Participants:** The Indian contingent includes **45 personnel**, mainly from a battalion of **The Mechanised Infantry Regiment**.

- The UAE Land Forces contingent comprises **53 personnel** from Mechanised Infantry Battalion.

**Planned Drills:** During the exercise, troops from both countries will train in a range of tactical drills, including fighting in built-up areas, heliborne operations and detailed mission planning.

- The exercise will also include the integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and counter-UAS techniques for conduct of operations in built-up areas.

**Significance:** DESERT CYCLONE-II reflects the strengthening strategic partnership between India and the UAE and is expected to further bolster military-to-military relations.

- It also reaffirms the shared commitment of both countries to regional peace, security and stability.

**Previous Edition:** India hosted the 1st edition of Desert Cyclone-I at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (MFFR) in Rajasthan in January 2024.

### **Indian Navy Commissions INAS 335 (Ospreys) at INS Hansa, Goa**

The Indian Navy (IN) commissioned its **second** (Multi-Mission Helicopter) MH-60R Seahawk helicopter squadron, Indian Naval Air Squadron 335 (**INAS 335 (Ospreys)**), at Indian Naval Station (**INS**) **Hansa**, Goa, marking a key milestone in its modernisation drive and significantly enhancing naval aviation capabilities along the western seaboard.

- The commissioning ceremony was presided over by **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi**, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS).

#### **About INAS 335 (Ospreys):**

**Role:** INAS 335 is a frontline naval aviation squadron operating MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, acting as the “eyes, ears, and first hunters” of the fleet.

**Command:** The squadron is led by **Captain Dhirender Bisht** and conducts Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW), Maritime Surveillance, and Search and Rescue operations (SAR).

**Type:** The MH-60R is an all-weather, multi-role maritime helicopter capable of day and night operations against conventional and asymmetric threats.

### **Indian Army Received Final Batch of AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters Final Batch**

The Indian Army (IA) received the **final batch of three** Attack Helicopters 64 Echo (**AH-64E Apache**) from Boeing, the United States of America (USA), at Hindon Air Force Station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- The delivery of all six AH-64E Apaches, with the final three airlifted by an Antonov An-124 for assembly and inspections, completes the India–USA deal and makes the Army Aviation Corps' Apache fleet fully operational.

**Deployment:** The helicopters will be stationed at **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**, under the newly raised **451 Army Aviation Squadron**, tasked with operations in the western sector across desert and high-threat environments.

## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Vivek Chaturvedi is appointed as New Chairman of CBIC

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, has approved the appointment of **Vivek Chaturvedi**, a 1990-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) (Customs & Indirect Taxes) officer, as the new **Chairman** of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

- He succeeds **Sanjay Kumar Agarwal**, who superannuated on 28 November 2025.

#### About Vivek Chaturvedi:

**Experience:** He has over three decades of experience in customs administration, tax enforcement, vigilance, data analytics and compliance.

**Previous Positions:** Earlier, he served as Principal Director General (DG) of Vigilance & Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), headed the Directorate General of Analytics and Risk Management (DGARM) for data-driven compliance.

- He also served in the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at various levels, gaining extensive experience in enforcement, anti-smuggling, and intelligence.

**Present Position:** Before this appointment, he was a Member (Tax Policy & Legal) on the CBIC board.

**New Role:** As CBIC Chairman, he will oversee India's indirect taxes, including Goods and Services Tax (GST), customs, and central excise, and guide policies on enforcement, compliance, customs modernization, and indirect tax reforms.

### IBTP Chief Praveen Kumar Gets Additional Charge as DG of BSF

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) assigned **Praveen Kumar**, currently Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the **additional charge of DG** of the Border Security Force (BSF), effective from **1 December 2025**. He will hold the BSF charge until a regular DG is appointed or until further orders.

- He succeeds **Daljit Singh Chawdhary**, who superannuated on 30 November 2025.

#### About Praveen Kumar:

**Profile:** He is a 1993-batch officer of the Indian Police Service (IPS), belonging to the West Bengal (WB) cadre.

**Previous Roles:** He has served in state-level police roles: as Superintendent of Police in several districts in WB, and as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) overseeing the Midnapore Range, where he led security operations in Naxal-affected areas.

- He has held multiple key posts at both the state and central levels, strengthening policing, counter-insurgency, and border management frameworks.

**Career:** He became the 35th Director General of the ITBP in October 2025, has served extensively in intelligence and field operations.

**Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo Re-elected as NRAI President**

Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo was re-elected as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (**NRAI**) for the first four four-year term (2025–2029), succeeding Raninder Singh, during the General Body meeting held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Mohali(Punjab), which was supervised by Justice (Retired) Nirmaljit Kaur.

- **Pawan Singh**, a renowned administrator and technical expert, was elected unopposed as the new Secretary General of NRAI, succeeding Kanwar Sultan Singh, who has moved to the position of Vice President(VP) of NRAI.

**About Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo:**

**Leadership:** He has led the NRAI since April 2023, initially serving as Acting President.

**Previous Term:** He was earlier elected as NRAI President on 21 September 2024 for a one-year term.

- Deputy Chef de Mission (Shooting) for Paris Olympics 2024.

**Experience:** He previously served as NRAI Senior VP since 2017.

**Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty Elected as First Women President of PCI**

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty, a senior Indian journalist from Assam, was elected as the first woman President of the Press Club of India (PCI), following the club's elections held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- Afzal Imam was elected Secretary General, Jatin Gandhi became Vice-President, while Aditi Rajput and P R Sunil were elected Treasurer and Joint Secretary, respectively, both unopposed.
- **Awards:** Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award (2017), Parag Kumar Das Journalism Award (2023)

**About Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty:**

**Profile:** Sangeeta began her career in 1996 with the United News of India (UNI). She was the first woman from Northeast India (Assam) to be employed at the headquarters of UNI in New Delhi.

**Career:** Later, she served as a Special Correspondent in The Hindu, where she reported exclusively on national politics, governance, social issues, and topics related to Northeast India.

- She moved to digital journalism with The Wire, serving as National Affairs Editor.

**Fellowship & Research:** In 2011, she was awarded an Inclusive Media Fellowship by the Centre for Development Studies (CSDS).

**Awards:** In 2017, She received the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award and in 2023, she was awarded the Parag Kumar Das Journalism Award.

**Former IAS Officer Raj Kumar Goyal Sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner**

Former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer **Raj Kumar Goyal** was sworn in as the 13th Chief Information Commissioner of the Central Information Commission (**CIC**) for three years,

with President Droupadi Murmu administering the oath of office and secrecy at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- Goyal succeeded **Heeralal Samariya**, who demitted office in September 2025.
- Following his swearing-in, Goyal administered the oath to eight newly appointed Information Commissioners (ICs), completing the Central Information Commission's full bench of one Chief Information Commissioner and ten ICs for the first time since 2016.

#### **Appointments Process:**

**Committee:** The appointments were recommended by a three-member committee as mandated by the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

**Composition:** The committee comprised Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi (Chairperson), Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

#### **About Raj Kumar Goyal:**

**Service Background:** Raj Kumar Goyal is a 1990-batch IAS officer, initially of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre and later part of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre.

**Previous Position:** He retired in August 2025 as Secretary of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J).

#### **New Information Commissioners (ICs):**

**Composition:** The eight newly appointed Information Commissioners represent diverse professional backgrounds, including civil services, journalism, and the legal sector, and join the two incumbent ICs, Anandi Ramalingam and Vinod Kumar Tiwari.

**New Information Commissioners:** Surendra Singh Meena, Ashutosh Chaturvedi, Swagat Das, Sudha Rani Relangi, P.R. Ramesh, Khushwant Singh Sethi, Jaya Varma Sinha, Sanjeev Kumar Jindal

#### **About Central Information Commission (CIC):**

**Established** – 2005

**Headquarters** – New Delhi, Delhi

#### **Jose Antonio Kast Rist Elected as the 38th President of Chile**

Far-right leader **José Antonio Kast Rist** of Chile's Republican Party **elected** as the **38th President of Chile** after winning the presidential runoff with about 58% of the vote, defeating left-wing candidate **Jeannette Jara**, and will assume office on March 11, 2026, succeeding centre-left President Gabriel Boric.

**About**

#### **José Antonio Kast Rist:**

**Political Career:** Kast began his career as a Buin councilman in 1996, served for over a decade as a congressman with the centre-right Independent Democratic Union (UDI), founded the hard-line Republican Party in 2019, and won the presidency in his third bid after unsuccessful runs in 2017 and 2021.

**Ideology & Social Views:** A far-right conservative with strong Catholic values, Kast admires former dictator Augusto Pinochet and firmly opposes abortion, same-sex marriage, and euthanasia.

**Security Agenda:** His “mano dura” or Implacable Plan prioritizes strict law enforcement through expanded police and military powers, deployment of troops in high-crime areas, isolation of cartel leaders, and construction of high-security prisons.

**Migration Policy:** Kast supports mass deportations of undocumented migrants, building border barriers in northern Chile, and creating a specialized border force modeled on the United States of America (USA) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

#### **About Chile:**

**President** – Gabriel Boric

**Capital** – Santiago

**Currency** – Chilean Peso (CLP)

#### **Sai Jadhav Becomes 1st Woman Officer to Pass Out from IMA, Broke 93 Year Old Record**

Old Sai Jadhav from Kolhapur (Maharashtra), scripted history by becoming the 1st woman officer to pass out from the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, one of the most prestigious military institutions in India.

- With this, she broke a 93-year old tradition in IMA that only ever saw men graduate.

#### **Key Details:**

**Milestone:** Since the establishment of IMA in 1932, **over 67,000 cadets** have passed out, all of them men until now.

**1st Women Batch:** At present, 8 women officer cadets are undergoing training in IMA, as part of the 1st woman batch selected through the National Defence Academy (NDA) in 2022.

#### **About Sai Jadhav:**

**Commissioning:** Sai Jadhav has been commissioned as a **Lieutenant in the Territorial Army (TA)**, becoming the 1st woman officer from IMA to join TA.

**Family Legacy:** Following her commissioning into the Indian Army (IA), she is now the **4th generation** in her family to serve the country after her great-grandfather was part of the British Army, her grandfather was commissioned into the IA, and her father Sandeep Jadhav continues to serve today.

**Training:** She joined the IMA with special permission and completed six months of intensive training, meeting the same standards as her male peers.

**Participate in Passing-Out Parade:** She will take part in the passing-out parade in front of the Chetwode Building in June 2026, an honour reserved only for IMA graduates.

#### **About Indian Military Academy (IMA):**

**Commandant**- Lt. General Nagendra Singh

**Headquarters**- Dehradun, Uttarakhand

**Established**- 1932

#### **Govt Appoints Three Senior Advocates as ASGs for the Supreme Court**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Senior Advocates **Davinder Pal Singh, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, and Anil Kaushik** as Additional Solicitors General (ASGs) for India in the Supreme Court of India (SCI).

- The appointments are valid for three years from the date of assuming office, or until further orders, whichever comes first.

**About New Additional Solicitors General(ASGs):**

**Role:** ASGs support the Attorney General of India (AGI) and the Solicitor General of India (SGI) in representing the Government of India (GoI) before the SCI.

**Davinder Pal Singh:** He is the Founder and Senior Partner of Arthe Law, empanelled with the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

- He has held key legal roles, including Additional Advocate General for Haryana and Punjab, and Special Counsel for Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED).

**Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:** Senior Advocate and former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament(MP) from Andhra Pradesh(AP) (2018–2024), with expertise in constitutional and Supreme Court matters.

**About Anil Kaushik:** He is a Senior Advocate with Supreme Court experience, former Additional Advocate General of Haryana, and currently Senior Counsel for Odisha and Madhya Pradesh(MP).

**PV Sindhu Elected Chair of BWF Athletes' Commission for 2026-2029**

Two-time Olympic Medallist and 2019 World Champion **Pusarla Venkata (P.V.) Sindhu** has been elected Chair of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes' Commission for a 3 year term (i.e. 2026-2029). In addition to that, Sindhu will also serve as a member of the BWF Council, lending a direct voice for players in the federation's governance body.

- Sindhu succeeds **Greysia Polii** (Indonesia), who served as Chair of the commission for 2021-25 term.

**Other Key Details:**

**Key Achievements:** P. V. Sindhu is a two-time Olympic medallist (Rio 2016 – Silver, Tokyo 2020 – Bronze) and the 2019 World Champion, making her one of India's most successful badminton players.

**Previous Role in BWF:** Sindhu has been associated with BWF Athletes' Commission as its member since 2017. She has also been BWF Integrity Ambassador since 2020.

**Other Members:** She will be supported by **Debora Jille (The Netherlands)** who has been elected as Deputy Chair of the Commission for 2026-2029 term.

- Also, An Se Young (South Korea), Doha Hany (Egypt), and Jia Yi Fan (China) will serve as the other player representatives on the commission.

**Other Key Appointment:** Also, two-time Paralympian **Chan Ho Yen Daniel** from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China has been elected as Chair of the Para Badminton Athletes' Commission for 2026-2029 term.

- Daniel has been serving as the interim Chair of Para Badminton Commission since April 2025.

## AWARD

### **Armand Duplantis, McLaughlin-Levrone Named World Athletics' Athletes of Year 2025**

Swedish pole vault star and double Olympic champion Armand “Mondo” Duplantis and American sprinter Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone were named the World Athletes of the Year in the ‘Men’s’ and ‘Women’s’ category, respectively, at the 2025 World Athletic awardsceremony held in **Monaco**.

- With this, Duplantis won the Men’s World Athlete of the Year title for a **3rd time** (2020 and 2022) while Levrone won the Women’s Athlete of the Year title for 2nd time (2022).
- Duplantis also received the Men’s Field Athlete of the Year award, while McLaughlin-Levrone was named Women’s Track Athlete of the Year.

#### **Key Winners:**

**Rising Star Award:** **Edmund Serem (Kenya)**, a bronze medallist in the 3000 m steeplechase in Tokyo and **Zhang Jiale (China)**, junior world record holder, won the “Rising Stars” awards in ‘men’s’ and ‘women’s’ category, respectively.

**Out of Stadium Athletes of Year:** Spain’s **Maria Perez** (Women’s category) and Kenya’s **Sabastian Sawe** (Men’s category) were named as the winners of 2025 out of stadium athletes of the year.

**Coaching Achievement Award:** **Michael O’ Connor** (from Ireland), with a coaching career spanning over 20 years, has received the 2025 Coaching Achievement Award, in recognition of his outstanding commitment to athlete development.

**Woman of the Year:** Kenyan athletics coach **Ruth Jepchumba Bundotich** won the 2025 World Athletics Woman of the Year Award, recognising her outstanding leadership, and exceptional contributions to the growth of women’s athletics in Kenya and globally.

### **DJSI: Jindal Stainless Steel Ranks Among Top 5% Globally, 4th in Steel Sector**

Jindal Stainless Limited (**JSL**) announced that it had entered the **top 5% of global steel companies** in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (**DJSI**) Corporate Sustainability Assessment (**CSA**) for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).

- JSL also secured 4th place in the global steel sector and 1st position in the stainless-steel segment, achieving an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) score of **78**.

### **BPCL Recognised Among Global Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars 2025**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (**BPCL**), a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), became the **only Indian** organisation recognised among the **Top 100** Corporate Startup Stars (**CSS**) **2025** by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Mind the Bridge (MTB) at a ceremony held in Paris, France.

- The recognition underscores BPCL’s dedication to startup partnerships, technology adoption, and innovation-driven growth.

**About CSS Awards:**

**Objective:** The CSS Awards recognise 100 leading Forbes Global 2000 and Fortune Global 500 companies for their outstanding commitment to open innovation, startup collaboration, and innovation-driven ecosystem engagement.

**BPCL Programme:** BPCL's startup programme 'Ankur' and the **BPCL Ankur Fund** were honoured for their significant role in fostering energy-sector entrepreneurship and supporting innovative startups in India.

- **Project Ankur:** Launched in 2016, BPCL's flagship initiative fosters innovation and supports over 30 startups, promoting cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable energy solutions.

**About BPCL:** Headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, BPCL operates under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) and runs refineries in Mumbai, Kochi (Kerala), and Bina (Madhya Pradesh, MP).

**USA President Donald Trump Receives Inaugural FIFA Peace Prize in USA**

FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) presented the first-ever FIFA Peace Prize to Donald John Trump, the President of the United States of America (USA), during the Final Draw Ceremony for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in Washington D.C, the USA.

- The award, accompanied by a gold medal and certificate, was presented by **Gianni Infantino**, President of FIFA.

**About FIFA Peace Prize Award:**

**Recognition:** The FIFA Peace Prize Award- FIFA Unites the World, is a new global award, instituted by FIFA in 2025 to recognize individuals who made exceptional contributions to peace, unity, and conflict resolution. It is intended to be an annual award.

**Purpose:** The award aims to promote peace and global unity through the influence and visibility of football, honor leaders or individuals who have taken extraordinary actions to prevent conflict or foster harmony and highlight the role of football as a bridge between countries and culture.

**Campaign:** The award was introduced under the initiative "Football Unites the World", a campaign led by Gianni Infantino.

**Prize:** The award includes a gold-plated trophy symbolizing unity, hands holding a globe; a peace prize medal; and an official certificate from FIFA.

**Sculptors:** The award was sculpted by Azerbaijani artists such as Salhab Mammadov and Ali Ibadullayev.

**About Donald John Trump:**

**Profile:** He was a businessman, real estate developer, television personality, and is a politician.

**Business Career:** In 1971, he took control of the Trump Organization. He specialized in building or branding hotels, casinos, golf courses, and residential towers. From 2004 to 2015, he gained national fame for hosting "The Apprentice".

**Political Career:** From 2017 to 2021, he served as the 45th President of the USA, winning against Hillary Clinton in 2016, representing the Republican party.

- In 2024 he again won the USA Presidential election and was sworn in for a second, non-consecutive term in 2025.

**About Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA):**

**President** – Gianni Infantino

**Headquarters** – Zurich, Switzerland

**Established** –

1904

**YouTube's Indian Origin CEO Neal Mohan Named TIME 2025 CEO of the Year**

TIME Magazine named Indian-Origin Neal Mohan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the social media and online video sharing platform, **YouTube Inc.**, as '**2025 CEO of the Year**', recognising his role in shaping global digital consumption through YouTube.

- Previous year, **Lisa Tzwu-Fang Su**, CEO and Chair of Advanced Micro Devices Inc.(AMD), a semiconductor design company, was named as the TIME Magazine's CEO of the Year.

**About Neal Mohan:**

**Career:** He started his career as consultant before joining the digital advertising startup NetGravity, which was later acquired by DoubleClick, digital advertising company.

**Key Role in Google:** In 2007, Mohan played a pivotal role in the acquisition of DoubleClick by Google, the parent company of YouTube.

- Later, he joined Google in 2008 as Senior Vice President (VP) of Display and Video Advertisements (Ads).

**Career in YouTube:** Mohan was appointed as Chief Product Officer (CPO) of YouTube in 2015.

- Since 2023, Mohan has been serving as the CEO of YouTube after his mentor **Susan Wojcicki** stepped down.

**TIME 2025 Entertainer of the Year:**

**Winner:** Renowned Hollywood actor and Oscar Winner **Leonardo DiCaprio** has been named TIME's 2025 Entertainer of the Year. This recognition came after the astounding success of his latest film, **One Battle After Another**.

**Achievement:** With an acting career spanning over 35 years, Di Caprio is best known for his performances in films like The Revenant for which he won Oscar in 'Best Actor' category in 2015.

**Anant Ambani Receives Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare**

Anant Ambani, Founder of the wildlife conservation centre Vantara, received the 'Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare' from the Global Humane Society, the international brand of the American Humane Society, in Washington DC, United States of America (USA).

- Anant Ambani received the honour for founding and leading Vantara, a large-scale initiative focused on wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation.
- He became the **youngest-ever** and the **first Asian** recipient of this global honour.
- **Focus Areas:** Rescue, rehabilitation, species preservation, science-led conservation

**About Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare:**

**Overview:** A prestigious global award recognizing individuals whose work creates lasting, evidence-based impact in animal welfare and conservation.

**Selection:** The selection recognises Anant Ambani's leadership in establishing Vantara as a science-led conservation centre with transformative impact in rescue, rehabilitation, and species preservation, endorsed by the Global Humane Society as a "sanctuary of healing."

**Previous Recipients:** Past awardees include John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, Betty White, John Wayne, Shirley MacLaine and others.

#### **About Vantara:**

**Overview:** Vantara combines ex situ care with in situ conservation to safeguard threatened species, restore populations, and reintroduce endangered animals through science-led research, rehabilitation, and globally certified welfare standards.

#### **DBS Named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker**

Singapore-based **DBS Bank** was named **Global Bank of the Year 2025** by The Banker, a publication of Financial Times, during its annual Bank of the Year Awards 2025 held in London, the United Kingdom(UK).

- This is DBS's **third global win** in the category after 2018 and 2021.

#### **About DBS's Recognition :**

**Selection:** DBS was selected from 294 participating banks worldwide, with the 2025 awards spanning 132 countries across diverse banking categories.

**Additional Honours:** Along with the Global Bank of the Year 2025 title, DBS also clinched multiple regional and category awards, including Asia Bank of the Year, Singapore Bank of the Year, Investment Bank of the Year – Asia, and the first-ever Investment Bank of the Year.

**Global Recognition:** With this achievement, DBS now holds Best Bank titles from both 'The Banker' and 'Euromoney' in 2025, further solidifying its strong and distinguished global standing.

- This recognition marks DBS' ninth global Best Bank award from a major financial publication since its first win in 2018.

#### **TIME Magazine Named 'Architects of AI' as 2025 Person of the Year**

TIME magazine named the "Architects of Artificial Intelligence (AI)" as its Person of the Year for 2025, recognising the individuals who designed, developed, and advanced modern AI technologies.

#### **About TIME Person of the Year 2025**

**Transformative Year:** 2025 emerged as the tipping point when AI entered the mainstream and began reshaping information systems, economies, geopolitics, science, and consumer technology.

**Collective Recognition:** TIME honored the "Architects of AI" as a collective in 2025, a year that marked AI's transition from experimental use to broad consumer adoption.

#### **Key Individuals Featured:**

- **Jensen Huang** – Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Nvidia Corporation
- **Mark Zuckerberg** – CEO, Meta Platforms
- **Elon Musk** – Founder, xAI; CEO, Tesla
- **Sam Altman** – CEO, OpenAI
- **Lisa Su** – CEO, Advanced Micro Devices (AMD)

- **Demis Hassabis** – CEO, Google DeepMind
- **Dario Amodei** – CEO, Anthropic
- **Fei-Fei Li** – AI pioneer; Founder, World Labs

**Iconic Covers:** The 2025 TIME cover featured two designs, one depicting eight AI leaders in a “Lunch Atop a Skyscraper” style, and another creatively integrating the letters “AI” into technological scaffolding.

**Legacy of Honorees:** Since 1927, TIME’s Person of the Year has recognized influential figures and groups, including Donald Trump (2024), Taylor Swift (2023).

#### **Elon Musk Becomes 1st Person to Hit USD 600 Billion in Net Worth**

American Magazine, **Forbes** announced that **Elon Musk**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SpaceX and Tesla, became the **first person** in history to surpass a net worth of **USD 600 billion**.

#### **Key Details:**

**Wealth Surge:** This surge in Elon Musk’s wealth is primarily due to the announcement of SpaceX going public with an USD 800 billion valuation, which added USD 168 billion to his net worth in a single day, bringing it to an estimated **USD 677 billion**.

**IPO in 2026:** Elon Musk, holding an estimated 42% stake in SpaceX, is gearing up for an Initial Public Offering (**IPO in 2026**), which could potentially value the company at USD 1.5 trillion.

**Tesla Shares:** He also holds nearly 12% stake in Electric Vehicle (EV) company Tesla, shares of which have increased by **13%** this year, despite slowing sales.

- In November 2025, Tesla shareholders approved a **USD 1 trillion** pay package for Musk, the largest in corporate history.

#### **Bloomberg World’s Richest Families Report 2025: The Walton Tops the List; Ambani Family Ranks 8<sup>th</sup>**

Bloomberg released its annual report titled “Bloomberg-World’s Richest Families 2025”, tracking the 25 wealthiest family fortunes globally and their aggregate wealth growth. As per the report, **the Ambani family**, remained **8<sup>th</sup>** with an estimated net worth of about **USD 105.6 billion**, is the only Indian family featured in the list.

- The **Walton family**, who owns 44% of Walmart, is ranked first with **USD 513.4 billion** in wealth, followed by the Al Nahyan family (USD 335.9 billion) (2nd rank), Al Saud, the Saudi Royal family (USD 213.6 billion) (3rd rank).

#### **Highlights of Bloomberg-World’s Richest Families 2025:**

**Methodology:** The threshold to enter the top 25 list increased by USD 9.7 billion to a net worth of USD 46.4 billion in 2025. It excludes first-generation fortunes, fortunes controlled by a single heir, and the families whose source of income is unclear.

**Wealth Concentration:** The top 25 richest families hold a combined fortune of approximately **USD 2.9 trillion**, up by USD 358.7 billion from 2024, with the top 5 families alone accounting for around USD 1.4 trillion.

**Other Top 10 families:** The Al Thani Family of Qatar ranks 4th with USD 199.5 billion, followed by France’s Hermes Family in 5th place with USD 184.5 billion.

#### **Malayalam Publisher Ravi Deecce Conferred France’s Knight of Arts & Letters**

Ravi Deecce, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of DC Books which

is of one of India's prominent Malayalam literary publishing house, was honoured with **Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters), one of France's highest civilian honours, in recognition of his commitment to multilingualism, literary innovation, and international cultural collaboration.

- Deecee formally received the award from **Thierry Mathou**, French Ambassador to India, at a ceremony held at the Embassy of France in Delhi.

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#### **Reason for French Honour :**

**Translations of Famous French Works:** DC Books has published Malayalam translations of some of the famous French works, including titles by Annie Ernaux, Celine, Johanna Gustawsson, Jean-Paul Sartre, Emmanuel Carrere, David Diop, and Maryse Conde.

**Facilitates Platform for International Authors:** Apart from publishing, DC Books has played an important role in bringing international authors to Kerala through its **Vagamon Writers Residency**, which has been part of the Villa Swagatam programme of the French Embassy since its launch.

**Kerala Literature Festival (KLF):** KLF, founded by Deecee, is held annually in the month of January in Kerala's Kozhikode.

- Since its inception in 2016, the festival has emerged as one of the largest literature festivals in the world.
- In January 2025, France was the guest nation at KLF, the festival attracted some of the prominent French writers: 2019 Nobel laureate **Esther Duflo**.

#### **Other Key Indian Winners:**

**Previous Publishers:** It included Pramod Kapoor, founder of Roli Books and Aditi Maheswari, the CEO of Vani Prakashan Group.

**Indian Actors:** Some of the prominent Indian actors who have been honoured with the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (3rd of the three-category award): Nandita Das, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan.

#### **About Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres:**

**Overview:** Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters, established in 1957 by the French Ministry of Culture, recognises individuals who have made significant contributions to the promotion of arts and culture in France and around the world.

**Ranks:** It comprises three ranks i.e. Commandeur(Commander), Officier (Officer), and Chevalier (Knight).

**Winners:** Since 1957, the Order has honored creators, thinkers, visionaries, and cultural ambassadors.

#### **Singapore Changi Airport Awarded Best International Airport in 2025 by Travel+Leisure**

Singapore Changi Airport (SIN) was awarded the Best International Airport by **Travel+Leisure** India & South Asia, as part of the **14th** edition of India's Best Awards .

- The India's Best awards 2025, reflects travellers' preferences worldwide, covering airports, airlines, cruises, hotels, and destinations.

**About Recognition:**

**Selection Process:** The winners are selected based on readers' votes through an online survey. The readers ranked it highest for overall travel experience, comfort, and facilities.

**Excellence:** Changi Airport was recognised for setting global benchmarks in efficiency, comfort, and design, redefining itself as a destination rather than just a transit hub.

**About Changi Airport:** The Changi Airport, established in 1981, is equipped with indoor gardens and attractions such as Jewel Changi with Rain Vortex, world's tallest indoor waterfall and butterfly gardens. The art-filled spaces, transit hotels, sleeping pods, enhance the passenger comfort.

**Indian Origin Jayshree Ullal Ranks First on Hurun India Rich List 2025**

Indian-Origin and British-Born **Jayshree Ullal**, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Arista Networks, was named the wealthiest Indian-Origin professional manager or executive on the '**Hurun India Rich List 2025**' with an estimated net worth of **USD 5.7 billion**(approximately Rs.50,170 crores).

- With this achievement, she has overtaken prominent Indian-origin technology leaders, including Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, in terms of personal wealth rankings within the global tech sector.
- **Recognition:** Among top first-generation women wealth creators in Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List 2025

**About Jayshree Ullal:**

**Profile:** Jayshree Ullal, an Indian-origin business executive, is renowned for her pioneering contributions to cloud networking and data center technology.

**Career:** In 2008, she joined Arista Networks, California (United States of America (USA)), a Cloud Computing company that designs high-performance network switches and software. Jayshree holds 3% of the shares of Arista Networks.

•Earlier, she worked in Cisco Systems, AMD, and Fairchild Semiconductor.

**Recognition:** In 2025, she was also recognized among the top first-generation women wealth creators in the Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List 2025.

## SPORTS

### **Belgium Defeats India to Win Maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025 in Malaysia**

The Belgium national men's field hockey team, defeated the India national men's field hockey team, captained by Sanjay Rana, 1-0 in the final to win their **first-ever Sultan Azlan Shah Cup** at the **31st** edition of the annual men's invitational international field hockey tournament, held from 23 to 30 November 2025 at the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, **Malaysia**.

- With this win, Belgium secured the gold medal, while India earned the silver in the tournament.
- New Zealand secured the bronze medal with a 6–1 victory over host Malaysia.

### **Overview of 31st Sultan Azlan Shah Cup :**

**Organiser:** The tournament is organised by the Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) and sanctioned by the International Hockey Federation or Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH).

**Format:** The tournament will follow a round-robin format, with each team playing against every other team once.

**Participants:** Belgium, India, New Zealand, Malaysia, Canada and South Korea

**Tournament:** A total of 15 matches were played in the 31st Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025, with 92 goals scored across the tournament.

**Top Scorer:** Tom Boon(Belgium) scored 6 goals, becoming the tournament's leading scorer.

### **Champions and Runners-up:**

- Belgium:** Won their maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Cup title in their second appearance, having previously finished sixth in 2008.
- India:** Five-time champions (1985, 1991, 1995, 2009, 2010), finished as runners-up for the second consecutive edition (previously in 2019).

### **About Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**

**Origin:** The tournament began in 1983 as a biennial contest and became an annual event from 1998 due to its growth and popularity.

**Namesake:** The tournament is named after **Sultan Azlan Shah**, the ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and a supporter of field hockey.

**Records:** Australia holds the record with 10 titles, followed by India with five and Pakistan with three.

**Defending Champion:** Japan won their first-ever Sultan Azlan Shah Cup title in 2024 but will not participate in the 2025 edition of the tournament.

### **Overview of Syed Modi International 2025 held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

The **2025 Syed Modi International**, a Super 300 badminton tournament, was held at the Babu Banarsi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP), from **November 25 to 30, 2025**.

- **Jason Gunawan** of Hong Kong won the men's singles title, Japan's **Hina Akechi** claimed the women's singles crown, and India's **Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly** emerged as the women's doubles champions.

### **Max Verstappen Wins Qatar Grand Prix 2025**

The four-time Formula One (F1) World Champion driving for Red Bull Racing, won the **2025 Qatar Grand Prix(GP)**, officially known as the F1 Qatar Airways Qatar GP 2025, held on 30 November 2025 at the Lusail International Circuit in Lusail, Qatar.

- The 2025 Qatar GP marked Max Verstappen's **7th** win of the 2025 F1 season, the **70th** GP victory of his Formula 1 career, and his **126th** podium finish in 232 career race entries.

#### **Race Highlights:**

**Championship Round:** It was the 23rd race of the 2025 F1 World Championship and the fourth edition of the Qatar GP.

**Oscar Piastri:** Started from pole, finished second, and remained 16 points off the championship lead.

**Lando Norris:** Finished fourth after being held up by Kimi Antonelli and Carlos Sainz, retaining a 12-point lead.

#### **Top 5 Winners of Qatar Grand Prix 2025:**

Rank	Name of the Driver	Team	Country Representation	Points
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	Netherlands	25
2	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	Australia	18
3	Carlos Sainz	Williams	Spain	15

**Grand Prix:** A GP is a major international motorsport race included in the Formula One World Championship, with the 2025 season comprising 24 events where drivers vie for points, podium finishes, and the overall championship.

**Upcoming Grand Prix:** The Abu Dhabi GP is scheduled for December 5–7, 2025, at the Yas Marina Circuit on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates(UAE).

#### **About Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA):**

FIA is the governing body and organiser of Formula One and other international motorsport events.

**President** – Mohammed Ben Sulayem (United Arab Emirates, UAE)

**Headquarters** – Paris, France

**Established** – 1904

## GM Arjun Erigaisi Wins Jerusalem Masters 2025 by Defeating Viswanathan Anand in Israel

Indian Chess Grandmaster (GM) **Arjun Erigaisi** won the 2nd edition of **Jerusalem Masters 2025** title by defeating the five-time world champion and Indian Chess GM **Viswanathan Anand** in the final held in Jerusalem, Israel from November 30 – December 3, 2025.

### About Jerusalem Masters 2025:

**Format:** The Jerusalem Masters is a closed invitational event where twelve players compete in a round-robin stage, with the top four advancing to the semifinals and final.

**Organizers:** The event is organized by the Israel Ministry of Culture and Sports, Jerusalem Municipality, and Israeli Chess Federation (ICF).

**Participants:** Featured elite players including Viswanathan Anand, Peter Svidler, and Ian Nepomniachtchi.

**Final:** Arjun Erigaisi secured his first Jerusalem Masters title by drawing both rapid games, winning the first blitz tie-break, and drawing the second, marking his first major win over Viswanathan Anand and demonstrating strong resilience.

- while non-representing Peter Russian players Svidler and Ian Nepomniachtchi secured third and fourth place.

**Prize Fund:** The 2025 Jerusalem Masters featured a total prize fund of USD 140,000, with Arjun Erigaisi winning USD 55,000 and Viswanathan Anand receiving USD 35,000.

**Inaugural Edition:** The first Jerusalem Masters was held in 2024, with Russian Grandmaster Peter Svidler winning the inaugural title.

## Lando Norris Wins Maiden F1 Drivers' Championship at Abu Dhabi GP 2025

Lando Norris, McLaren Racing, secured his first Formula One (F1) Drivers' Championship title by finishing third at the season-closing Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (GP) 2025 at the Yas Marina Circuit, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), behind race winner **Max Verstappen** and runner-up Oscar Piastri, clinching the title by just two points.

- **Lando Norris** became the 11<sup>th</sup> British driver to win the F1 World Championship and the first British champion since Lewis Hamilton in 2020, securing McLaren's 13<sup>th</sup> drivers' championship title.
- **Significance:**
  - Norris became the 11<sup>th</sup> British F1 World Champion
  - McLaren's 13<sup>th</sup> Drivers' Championship and 2nd Constructors' Championship

### Top 3 – 2025 Formula One Drivers' Championship:

Rank	Driver	Team	Points
1	Lando Norris	McLaren	428
2	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	426
3	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	417

### Abu Dhabi GP Highlights:

**Championship Round:** Final (24th) race of the 2025 F1 World Championship; title-deciding race with three drivers in contention Lando Norris, Max Verstappen, and Oscar Piastri.

**Max Verstappen:** Max Verstappen won the race from pole position and finished the season with 415 points but narrowly missed securing a fifth consecutive Drivers' Championship by just two points.

**Oscar Piastri:** Finished second in the race and third in the Drivers' Championship, 11 points behind Verstappen.

**McLaren Triumph:** In 2025, McLaren won both the Drivers' and Constructors' Championships, securing their first drivers' title and second constructors' title.

### India Claims Six Medals at ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha,

Qatar International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Final 2025 concluded at Lusail Shooting Complex, Doha, Qatar, from December 4 to 9, 2025. The event marked the final stage of the 2025 ISSF shooting season.

- **China** topped with 9 medals (4 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze), **India** secured 2nd place with 6 medals (2 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze), and the United States of America (**USA**) with 6 medals (2 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze).

### ISSF World Cup Final – Doha 2025:

**Organiser:** The ISSF World Cup Final is organized and governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

**Prize Money:** First place awards **5000 Euro**, second place awards **4000 Euro**, and third place awards **2000 Euro**.

#### Gold Medals

- **Simranpreet Kaur:** Won gold in Women's 25 meter (m) Pistol with 41/50 hits, equalling the junior world record of Olympic champion Yang Ji-in (South Korea).
- **Suruchi Singh:** Won gold in Women's 10m Air Pistol with 245.1 points, setting a new ISSF junior world record and surpassing Manu Bhaker's 244.7 points (2019).

### Top 3 Countries in ISSF World Cup 2025 Finals:

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	4	2	3	9
2	India	2	3	1	6
3	United States of America (USA)	2	2	2	6

### **About International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF):**

**President** – Luciano Rossi

**Headquarters** – Munich, Germany

**Established** – 1907

### **India Defeats Hong Kong to Win First-Ever Squash World Cup Title in Chennai**

The World Squash Federation (WSF) in collaboration with The Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) organized the **2025 Squash World Cup**, which was held at Express Avenue Mall in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), from 9 to 14 December 2025.

- The **Indian mixed-team** clinched its first-ever **2025 Squash World Cup title** after a dominant 3–0 victory over top-seeded **Hong Kong** in the final, becoming the first Asian nation and fourth overall after Australia, England, and Egypt, to win the trophy.

### **India Wins Squash World Cup 2025:**

**Event Overview:** The Squash World Cup 2025 was a mixed-team event featuring 12 nations, held for the third consecutive time in Chennai, TN, and enhanced India's prospects ahead of squash's Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028, California, United States of America (USA).

**Medal Tally:** India (mixed team) won the gold medal, Hong Kong (China) secured the silver medal, while Egypt and Japan shared the bronze medal at the Squash World Cup 2025.

**Match Summary:** Joshna Chinappa beat Ka Yi Lee 3–1, Abhay Singh defeated Alex Lau 3–0, and Anahat Singh overcame Tomato Ho 3–0, securing an early clean sweep without the need for the final rubber.

**Tournament Journey:** India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, defeating Switzerland and Brazil 4–0 in the group stage, South Africa 3–0 in the quarterfinals, Egypt 3–0 in the semifinals, and Hong Kong 3–0 in the final.

**Key Contributors:** Veteran Joshna Chinappa, top-ranked men's player Abhay Singh, and teenage sensation Anahat Singh played decisive roles

### **India Beats South Africa to Clinch T20I Series 3-1 & ODI Series 2-1**

The Indian men's cricket team defeated South Africa by 30 runs in the fifth and final Twenty20

International (**T20I**) at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, to clinch the five-match series 3–1.

**Highlight of T20I Series 2025:**

**Result:** India posted 231/5 and restricted South Africa to 201/8, winning by 30 runs to clinch the series 3–1.

**India Batting:** Tilak Varma's 73 and Hardik Pandya's rapid 63 off 25 balls (second-fastest T20I fifty by an Indian), supported by Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson, powered a commanding total.

**Player of the Series:** Varun Chakravarthy

**Winning Streak:** The victory extended India's dominance to eight consecutive T20I series wins and a 10-match unbeaten run in series/tournament play.

**India Defeats South Africa by 9 Wickets to Clinch ODI Series 2-1**

On 6 December 2025, **India** defeated **South Africa** by nine wickets in the third and final One Day International (**ODI**) at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP), to secure the three-match series 2-1.

**Highlight of ODI Series 2025:**

**Series:** India won the ODI series against South Africa 2-1, with Virat Kohli scoring centuries in the first two matches, Ruturaj Gaikwad also hitting a century in the second ODI, and India sealing the series with a nine-wicket victory in the third match.

**Player of the Series:** Virat Kohli

**About the International Cricket Council (ICC):**

**Chairman** – Jay Shah

**Headquarters** – Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

**Established** – 1909

## OBITUARY

### Former Mizoram Governor Swaraj Kaushal Passed Away

Former Governor of Mizoram **Swaraj Kaushal** passed away at the age of 73 in New Delhi, Delhi. He was born on 12 July 1952 in Solan, Patiala and East Punjab States Union (now in Himachal Pradesh, HP).

- He is the husband of late former Union Minister Sushma Swaraj and the father of Bansuri Swaraj, Member of Parliament (MP) from New Delhi.

- **Position Held:**

- Advocate General of Mizoram: 1987
- Governor of Mizoram: From 1990 to 1993(youngest governor in India at 37)
- **Rajya Sabha MP:** From 1998 to 2004
- **Key Role:** Played pivotal role in Mizoram Peace Accord (1986); defended George Fernandes in Baroda Dynamite Case

### About Swaraj Kaushal:

**Profile:** He was a distinguished Indian lawyer, politician, and public servant, renowned for his expertise in criminal law.

**Legal Career:** He was renowned for his work in constitutional law and high-profile political and insurgency-related cases.

- He notably defended former Union Minister George Fernandes in the Baroda Dynamite Case during the Emergency (1975–77).
- In 1979, he secured the release of Laldenga, the Mizo National Front (MNF) leader, and later served as the MNF's constitutional adviser during peace negotiations, playing a pivotal role in the Mizoram Peace Accord of 1986.

**Key Position :** He became the **first Advocate General** of Mizoram in 1987 and, in 1990, was appointed Governor of Mizoram at the age of 37, making him the one of the **youngest governor in India**, a position he held until 1993.

**Political Career:** From 1998 to 2004, he served as the Rajya Sabha MP, representing Haryana Vikas Party(HVP).

### Former Chairperson of Lakme Simone Tata Passed Away

Simone Tata, former Chairperson of Lakme and Mother of Noel Tata, Chair of Tata Trust, passed away at the age of 95 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born in Geneva, Switzerland on March 2, 1930.

### About

#### Simone Tata:

**Early Life:** Simone Tata, also known as Simone Dunoyer, married Naval Hormusji Tata in 1955 and subsequently settled in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**Career with Tata:** In 1961, she joined as the Director of Lakme, which was a small subsidiary of

Tata Oil Mills Company (TOMCO). She transformed Lakme as India's best-known cosmetics brand by expanding its product range.

- She became Chairperson of Lakmé in 1982, and Lakmé was sold to Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) in 1996.
- She reinvested that sale proceeds to start Trent Limited. Under Trent, she launched Westside in 1998.

**Philanthropy:** She was actively involved in philanthropy, supporting institutions like the Sir Ratan Tata Institute, and inspiring many with her positive outlook.

**Titles:** She was widely known as 'Cosmetic Czarina of India' and as 'Doyen of India's Beauty Industry'.

#### **Former Union Minister Shivraj Patil Passed Away**

Senior Indian National Congress (INC) leader and former Union Minister Shivraj Vishwanath Patil Chakurkar, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), **passed away** in Latur, Maharashtra, at the age of 90.

- He was born on October 12, 1935, in Chakur, Hyderabad State, British India (present-day Maharashtra, India).

#### **About Shivraj Patil:**

**Legacy:** He was known for his constitutional expertise, disciplined conduct, and fluency in Marathi, Hindi, and English,

**Political Journey:** He began his political career as the Municipal Council Chief of Latur before entering state politics.

**State Politics:** Served two terms in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (1972–1979), during which he held roles such as Chairman of the Public Undertakings Committee, and later served as both Deputy Speaker and Speaker of the Assembly.

**Parliament Tenure:** Entered national politics by winning the 7th Lok Sabha seat from Latur in 1980 and served seven consecutive terms until 2004, during which he chaired the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Member of Parliaments (MPs) and served as the **10th Speaker of the Lok Sabha** (1991–1996).

**Union Roles:** Held several Minister of State (MoS) portfolios across Defence, Commerce, Science & Technology, Atomic Energy, Personnel & Training, Civil Aviation, Tourism, and later served as **Union Home Minister** from 2004 to 2008.

**Governorship:** Served as **Governor of Punjab** and Administrator of the Union Territory (UT) of **Chandigarh** (2010–2015).

#### **Former MP Ram Vilas Das Vedanti Passed Away**

Ram Vilas Das Vedanti, former Member of Parliament (MP) and a key figure of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, passed away at Gudhwa in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh (MP), at the age of 67. He was born on 7 October 1958 in Rewa, MP.

#### **About Ram Vilas Das Vedanti:**

**Spirituality:** Dr. Ram Vilas Das Vedanti, disciple of Mahant Abhiram Das, led the Vashishth

Bhawan ashram in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh(UP).

**Ram Movement:** He was a key figure in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and served as Executive President of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas.

**Parliamentary Career:** He was a two-term Lok Sabha MP representing Machhlishahr (1996) and Pratapgarh (1998) constituencies in UP.

### **Renowned Indian Sculptor and Padma Awardee Ram Vanji Sutar Passed Away**

Renowned Indian sculptor and Padma awardee **Ram Vanji Sutar**, designer of the world's tallest statue 'the Statue of Unity', **passed away** in Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP), at the age of 100 years. He was born on 19th February 1925 in Dhule, Maharashtra.

- He was honoured with the **Padma Shri** in 1999 in the field of Art and **Padma Bhushan** in 2016 in the field of Art.

#### **About Ram Vanji Sutar:**

**Specialisation:** He specialised in bronze and realistic sculptures that combine fine artistry with large-scale engineering.

#### **Landmark Works:**

- **Statue of Unity:** He created the 182-metre(m) Statue of Unity at Kevadia, Gujarat, dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the world's tallest statue.
- **Kempe Gowda:** He sculpted the 108-foot statue of Kempe Gowda installed at Bengaluru International Airport, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- **Chambal Monument:** He designed the 45-foot-tall Chambal monument in Madhya Pradesh.

**Mythological Works:** He co-created the bronze Krishna Arjun Rath Monument at Brahma Sarovar with Anil R. Sutar in 2008.

#### **Gandhi Sculptures:**

- **Works in India:** He designed the seated meditative statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Parliament complex (Delhi) and sculpted the bronze Mahatma Gandhi statue at Vidhan Soudha (Bengaluru).
- **Global Installations:** His sculptures and busts of Mahatma Gandhi have been installed in over 450 cities worldwide, including Hanover (Germany) and Roma Street Parkland, Brisbane (Australia) (2024).

**Shivaji Statue:** He created the equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the Parliament complex (Delhi).

**Ongoing Projects:** He was involved in the design of the proposed Lord Ram statue in Ayodhya (UP) and contributed to the design of the upcoming Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Mumbai (Maharashtra).

**Awards:** He received the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony in 2018 and the Maharashtra Bhushan Puraskar in 2025.

**World War II Veteran Ira ‘Ike’ Schab Passed Away**

Ira “Ike” Schab, a World War II Veteran of the United States of America (USA), passed away at the age of 105 in Oregon, USA. He was born on July 4, 1920, in Illinois, USA.

**About Ira Ike Schab:**

**Profile:** He joined as a sailor in the US Navy in 1938. He was one of the last surviving American servicemen who witnessed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, when he served aboard the United States Ship (**USS Dobbin**) as a sailor and musician.

- During the assault, he helped pass ammunition for anti-aircraft guns amidst the chaos. After hearing the call for a fire rescue, he went topside and witnessed the chaos as Japanese planes attacked, including seeing the USS Utah capsizing.

**Jnanpith Awardee Hindi Litterateur Vinod Kumar Shukla Passed Away**

Renowned Hindi litterateur and Jnanpith Award awardee **Vinod Kumar Shukla** passed away at the age of 88 years in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. He was born on 1 January 1937 in Rajnandgaon (now in Chhattisgarh).

- In 2025, he received the **59th Jnanpith Award**, becoming the first writer from Chhattisgarh to receive India's highest literary honour.

**About Vinod Kumar Shukla:**

**Career:** He wrote actively for over five decades and emerged as one of the most influential voices in modern Hindi literature.

**Debut:** His literary journey began in 1971 with the publication of the poetry collection *Lagbhag Jai Hind*.

**Major Works:** His prominent works include novels *Naukar Ki Kameez*, *Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi*, and *Khilega To Dekhenge*, poetry collections *Lagbhag Jai Hind* and *Kavita Se Lambi Kavita*, and the short story collection *Pedon Par Kamra*.

**Awards and Honours:** He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999 for ‘*Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi*’.

- In 2023, he became the **first Indian** to receive the PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature.

**Tripura Assembly Speaker Biswa Bandhu Sen Passed Away**

Tripura Assembly Speaker **Biswa Bandhu Sen** passed away at the age of 72 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was born on May 23, 1953 in Tripura.

- He was serving as the **11th** speaker of Tripura Legislative Assembly since March 2023.

**About Biswa Bandhu Sen:**

**Political Career:** He started his political career with the India National Congress (INC) (winning state elections in 2008 and 2013).

- Later, he joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in 2016, and subsequently switched to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

**MLA:** He was elected **4 times** as Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) representing the 56-Dharmanagar constituency in North Tripura.

**Previous Roles:** He served as the Vice-Chairman of the Dharamnagar Nagar Panchayat in 1988.

- He also served as the Deputy Speaker of the Tripura Legislative Assembly from 2018 to 2023.

**Former Bangladesh PM Begum Khaleda Zia Passed Away**

Former Prime Minister (PM) of Bangladesh **Begum Khaleda Zia**, chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), passed away at the age of 80 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. She was born on 15 August 1945 in Jalpaiguri in Bengal Province, British India (now in West Bengal, WB).

- She served as PM from 1991 to 1996 and later from 2001 to 2006.

**About Begum Khaleda Zia:**

**Profile:** Khaleda Zia is the spouse of Ziaur Rahman, former President of Bangladesh. She entered politics after the assassination of her husband in 1981.

**Career:** In 1982, she joined the BNP, which was founded by Ziaur Rahman. In 1984, she became the Chairperson of the BNP. She emerged as an opposition leader against the military rule of H.M. Ershad, leading pro-democracy movements.

**Leadership Roles:** In 1991, after the fall of military rule, BNP won the free elections, and Khaleda Zia became the **first woman PM of Bangladesh**. She served till 1996, restoring parliamentary democracy, strengthening democratic institutions, and economic liberalization and private-sector growth.

- In 1996, her government resigned amid political unrest over election demands.
- In 2001, she again became the PM, focusing on infrastructure development, economic growth, strengthening relations with China, Pakistan, and Middle Eastern countries. Her tenure ended due to political instability in 2006.

**Awards:** In 2022, she was honored with the '**Mother of Democracy**' award by the Canadian Human Rights International Organization (CHRIO) for her contributions to democracy and human rights.

**About Bangladesh:**

**President** – Mohammed Shahabuddin

**Capital** – Dhaka

**Currency** – Bangladeshi Taka (BDT)

## Important Days with theme

### World AIDS Day 2025 – December 1

The United Nations (UN's) **World Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Day** is annually observed across the globe on **1st December** to raise awareness about Human Immunodeficiency Viruses (HIV)/ AIDS and to encourage solidarity in the fight against the disease.

- **2025 Theme:** “Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response”
- **Symbol :** The red ribbon represents solidarity with people living with HIV, honors those lost to AIDS, and was chosen for its association with blood and passion, according to the Red Ribbon Project founders.

#### Background:

**Origin:** In August **1987**, James W. Bunn and Thomas Netter of World Health Organization (WHO)'s Global Programme on AIDS proposed the concept of World AIDS Day in Geneva, Switzerland.

**First Observance:** The first World AIDS Day was observed on **December 1st, 1988**, led by the WHO.

#### Observance in India:

**Led by:** Since 1992, India's National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoFHW) has commemorated World AIDS Day annually on December 1st.

**2025 Event in India:** On 1st December 2025, Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda**, MoFHW, presided over the national-level World AIDS Day 2025 event held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi, organised by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), MoFHW.

### Raising Day of the Border Security Force 2025- December 01

The Border Security Force (BSF) observes its **Raising Day** every year on **1st December**, commemorating its establishment as India's primary border guarding force on **1st December 1965**.

- 1st December 2025 marks the observance of the 61st BSF Raising Day.

#### About Border Security Force (BSF):

**Formation:** BSF was established in 1965 with 25 battalions and played a crucial role during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War.

**Status :** The BSF, a paramilitary force known as the **First Line of Defence** of Indian Territories, is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (**CAPFs**) functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

**Deployment Areas:** BSF is deployed along the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh international borders, the Line of Control (LoC) alongside the Indian Army(IA), and in Anti-Naxal Operations zones.

**Powers & Legal Authority:** BSF is mandated to protect India's borders and is empowered to arrest, search, and seize under multiple laws, including the Code of Criminal Procedure (**CrPC**) of 1973, Passports Act 1967, Passport (Entry into India) Act 1920, and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (**NDPS**), 1985.

**Largest Border Guarding Force:** The BSF, the world's largest border security force with a sanctioned strength of over 2.7 lakh personnel, operated with 193 battalions guarding 6,386.36 kilometer(km) of international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

**2025 Events:**

**Celebration:** On 21 November 2025, the BSF celebrated its 61st Raising Day, marking its diamond jubilee, with a grand ceremonial parade held in **Bhuj, Gujarat**.

**Chief Guest:** Union Minister **Amit Shah**, MHA, served as the chief guest and all BSF officers and personnel participated in the event.

**National Pollution Control Day 2025- December 02**

National Pollution Control Day is observed every year in India on 2 December to honour the victims of the **1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy** and to raise awareness about pollution control, environmental protection, and industrial safety.

- 2 December 2025 marks the **41st** anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

**Theme:**

**2025 Theme:** “Sustainable Living for a Greener Future”

**Focus:** This theme emphasizes adopting eco-friendly practices, reducing pollution at the source, and strengthening community participation in sustainable development.

- **2025 theme:** “Sustainable Living for a Greener Future”

**About Bhopal Gas Tragedy:**

**Occurred on:** The Bhopal Gas Tragedy, India's first major industrial disaster, occurred on the night of 2–3 December **1984** when nearly 45 tons of Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) leaked from the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh(MP).

**Results:**

**Impact:** The disaster caused about 25,000 deaths and long-term respiratory, neurological, and congenital health issues among survivors, sparking nationwide demands for stricter pollution control, stronger inspections, and better industrial safety.

**About UCIL:** It was the Indian subsidiary of the Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), a U.S.A (United States of America) -based chemical company.

**Key Pollution Control Laws in India:**

**Overview:** The Government of India(GoI) has implemented several laws and policies to control pollution and protect the environment.

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 – December 03**

The United Nations (**UN's**) International Day of Persons with Disabilities (**IDPWD**) is observed

across the globe on **3rd December** to raise awareness, promote understanding, and support the rights, dignity, and well-being of persons with disabilities (PwDs) across all spheres of society.

- **2025 Theme:** “Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress”

#### **Background:**

**Establishment:** In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/47/3 to establish the observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons.

**First Observance:** The International Day of Disabled Persons was first observed on 3rd December 1992.

#### **Event in India:**

**Event:** At IDPWD 2025, the President of India **Droupadi Murmu** presented National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi (Delhi) on 3 December 2025.

**Award Category:** The National Awards 2025 was presented in **two major categories** with multiple subcategories:

- National Awards for Individual Excellence
- National Awards for Institutional Excellence

#### **Indian Navy Day 2025 – December 4**

Indian Navy Day is celebrated every year on December 4th throughout India to honor the contributions and accomplishments of the Indian Navy (IN) in safeguarding the country.

- **2025 Theme:** “Combat Ready, Cohesive, Credible, and Aatmanirbhar Force”

#### **Background:**

**Origins:** On May 1, 1830, the East India Company came under British control, was granted combatant status, and became the Indian Navy, later renamed “Her Majesty’s Indian Navy” in 1858.

**First Celebration:** Navy Day was initially celebrated on October 21, 1944.

#### **2025 Event:**

**Event:** On 3rd December 2025, the IN conducted the Navy Day 2025 Operational Demonstration (Op Demo 2025) at Shangumugham Beach, **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, hosted by Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS).

- President **Droupadi Murmu**, Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, attended the event as Chief Guest, alongside Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Kerala; Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister(CM) of Kerala and other dignitaries.

#### **Armed Force Flag Day 2025 – December 7**

Armed Forces Flag Day (AFFD) is observed annually on 7th December across India to honour the courage, sacrifice, and commitment of personnel serving in the Indian Army(IA), Indian Navy(IN), and Indian Air Force(IAF).

- 7th December 2025 marks the **77th** annual observance of AFFD.

**First Celebration:** The first AFFD was observed on **7th December 1949**.

#### **Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF):**

**Creation:** The MoD established the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) in 1949 to support the welfare of serving personnel, veterans, and families of the fallen.

#### **SAARC Charter Day 2025 – December 8**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) **Charter Day** is observed annually across the globe on **8th December** to mark the adoption of the SAARC Charter in 1985.

- 8th December 2025 marks the **41st** observance of SAARC Charter Day.

#### **Background:**

**Formation:** SAARC Charter Day originated from the adoption of the SAARC Charter during the first summit held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on December 7–8, 1985.

**First observance:** The first SAARC Charter Day was officially observed on December 8, 1985.

#### **About SAARC:**

**Membership:** SAARC is a regional geopolitical and economic bloc established in 1985 by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan joined later as the eighth member during the 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi in 2007.

**Secretariat:** The SAARC Secretariat was formally established in Kathmandu, Nepal, on January 17, 1987.

**SAARC Charter:** It comprises 10 articles that define the organization's objectives, principles, structure, meetings, Council of Ministers, Standing Committee, Technical Committees, Action Committees, Secretariat, financial arrangements, and general provisions.

#### **About SAARC Summits:**

**Frequency:** SAARC Summits were traditionally held every two years in alphabetical rotation among Member States, but none have taken place since 2014.

**Chair:** The Member State hosting the Summit automatically assumed the Chair of the Association.

#### **International Anti-Corruption Day 2025 – December 9**

The United Nations (UN's) International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is annually observed across the globe on **9th December** to raise awareness on the impact of corruption on governance, development and public trust.

- **2025 Theme:** “Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity”

#### **Background:**

**Adoption:** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the UN Convention against Corruption in 2003, designated the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as its secretariat, and later declared 9 December as IACD to raise global awareness.

**Entry:** The Convention came into force in December 2005, with 190 parties committing to its obligations, including India, which ratified it on 9 May 2011.

**1st Observance:** The first-ever IACD was celebrated on 9 December 2005

### Human Rights Day 2025 – December 10

The United Nations (UN)'s **Human Rights Day** (HRD) or International Human Rights Day, is observed every year across the globe on **10 December** marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (**UDHR**) in **1948** and promotes awareness of universal human rights without discrimination of any kind.

- 10 December 2025 marks the **77th** anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the **32nd** anniversary of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- **2025 Theme:** “Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials”

#### Background:

**Declaration:** On 4 December **1950**, the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) adopted Resolution A/RES/423 (V), proclaiming 10 December as Human Rights Day (HRD).

**First Observation:** The inaugural HRD was observed on 10 December 1950.

**Significance:** 10 December marks the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 217 (III) in 1948, which proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the global standard for fundamental human rights.

**Conference:** The programme included a national conference on the theme “Ensuring Everyday Essentials: Public Services and Dignity for All”, emphasising universal and dignified access to public services as a core human right.

### International Mountain Day 2025-December 11

The United Nations (UN) observes International Mountain Day (**IMD**) on **11 December** each year across the world to raise awareness about the significance of mountains and the need for sustainable mountain development.

- **2025 Theme:** “Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains and beyond”

#### Background:

**Official Designation:** In **2003**, the UNGA officially designated 11 December as IMD, making it an annual international observance.

- The first observance of IMD took place on **December 11, 2003**.

### Vijay Diwas 2025 – December 16

Vijay Diwas, or Victory Day (Bijoy Dibos), observed every year on 16 December across India and Bangladesh, to mark the historic victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak war and pay tribute to the martyrs from both nations who sacrificed their lives during the conflict.

- The day marks the official surrender of the Pakistani Armed Forces to the combined Indian and Mukti Bahini (Bangladesh liberation forces) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

- 16 December 2025 marks the observance of the **54th Vijay Diwas**.

#### **About the Indo-Pak War 1971:**

**Duration:** The Indo-Pak War of 1971 was a 13-day military conflict between India and Pakistan, lasting from December 3 to December 16.

**Cause:** The war began due to India's support for Bengali nationalist forces seeking independence in East Pakistan amidst a humanitarian crisis.

**Surrender:** The Eastern Command of the Pakistan military signed the Instrument of Surrender on December 16, 1971, in Dhaka (Bangladesh).

**Leadership:** The war victory was led by Prime Minister (PM) Indira Gandhi, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, and Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora.

#### **2025 Events:**

**Military Tattoo:** On December 16, 2025, Headquarters Eastern Command commemorates the 54th Vijay Diwas with a grand Military Tattoo at the Mangal Pandey Training Area, Vijay Durg, in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

**Painting Competition:** On December 15, 2025, young schoolchildren in Agartala, Tripura, took part in a painting competition organized by the Indian Army at the Albert Ekka War Memorial to commemorate the 54th Vijay Diwas and promote patriotism and historical awareness.

#### **National Mathematics Day 2025 – December 22**

National Mathematics Day(NMD), celebrated annually on **December 22** to mark the birth anniversary of Indian mathematician **Srinivasa Ramanujan** and underscores the role of mathematics in human progress.

- December 22, 2025 commemorates the **138th** birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.

#### **Background :**

**Introduction:** NNMD was introduced by former Prime Minister(PM) Manmohan Singh on 26 December 2011 at the University of Madras(Tamil Nadu, TN) to commemorate the **125th** birth anniversary of mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan (born on 22 December 1887).

- He also announced that **2012** would be observed as the **National Mathematics Year**.

**First Observance:** The first NMD was celebrated on **22 December 2012**.

#### **Awards in Honour of Srinivasa Ramanujan:**

**SASTRA Ramanujan Prize:-** Instituted in 2005, this annual **USD 10,000** prize recognises outstanding contributions by individuals under the age of 32, honouring Ramanujan's extraordinary achievements.

- The 2025 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize was awarded to **Dr. Alexander Smith** of Northwestern University(the United States of America, USA) for his groundbreaking work in number theory, particularly on congruent number problems.

**DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize:** It is an annual award for mathematicians under 45 from developing countries, instituted in 2004 and first awarded in 2005, carrying a cash prize of USD 15,000.

- The **2025 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize** was conferred on Claudio Muñoz of the University of Chile for his notable contributions to dispersive partial differential equations.

### **National Farmer's Day 2025 – December 23**

**National Farmer's Day** (Kisan Diwas) is observed annually on **December 23** to honour farmers' contributions to India's social and economic development and mark the birth anniversary of **Bharat Ratna Chaudhary Charan Singh**, India's 5th Prime Minister(PM).

- December 23, 2025 commemorates the **123rd** birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh.

#### **Background:**

**Declaration:** In **2001**, the Government of India(GoI) declared December 23, the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, as Kisan Diwas (National Farmer's Day) to acknowledge his contributions to agriculture and farmer welfare.

**First Observance:** The first National Farmer's Day (Kisan Diwas) was observed on **December 23, 2001**.

#### **2025 Event:**

**2025 Award:** On December 23, 2025, the **2nd** edition of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Awards, instituted by the Kisan Trust, was presented in New Delhi to honour Chaudhary Charan Singh's contributions to rural development, farmers' welfare, and inclusive growth.

### **National Consumer Rights Day 2025 – December 24**

National Consumer Rights Day, also known as Bharatiya Grahak Diwas or National Consumer Day, is annually observed across India on 24 December to promote understanding of consumer rights and responsibilities.

- **2025 Theme:** “Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice”

#### **Background:**

**Enactment:** The day commemorates the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 1986, which received Presidential assent on 24 December 1986.

**First Observance:** The first-ever National Consumer Rights Day was observed on 24 December 1986.

### **Good Governance Day 2025 – December 25**

Good Governance Day, also known as 'Sushasan Diwas' in Hindi, is annually observed across

India on **25th December** to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister (PM) Late **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, the 10th PM of India.

- 25 December 2025 marks the **12th** observance of Good Governance Day and the **101st** birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The 5th Good Governance Week (Sushasan Saptah) was celebrated from 19 to 25 December 2025.

**Background:**

**Declaration:** In 2014, the Government of India (GoI) declared 25 December as Good Governance Day to honour the legacy of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

**First Observance:** The first Good Governance Day was observed on 25 December 2014.

**2025 Events:**