

# MAHITHI MONTHLY SNIPPETS

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# NEWS IN SHORT

## KARNATAKA ISSUES

The Karnataka government, through BWSSB, has launched the Annapoorna Scheme, India's first initiative offering direct meal support to sanitation workers. Initially covering 700 workers, each receives ₹1,500 monthly via smart cards (Axis Bank) usable at food outlets of choice. Aimed at ensuring nutrition, dignity, and financial independence, it aligns with the Smart City vision. While praised as a humane model, unions demand broader inclusion since only ~1,400 workers benefit, excluding 3,000+ contract staff.

Karnataka has secured a position on the Hub Governing Board (HGB) of the National Quantum Mission (NQM), marking a significant step in cooperative federalism and deep-tech development. Following an initiative by Lok Sabha member G. Kumar Naik, the Union government agreed to include State representation. On August 31, Karnataka's Chief Secretary nominated Ekруп Caur, Secretary of the Department of ITBT, as the nodal officer for the HGB, which will be located at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.

The Karnataka Government has formed a Delimitation Committee, headed by M. Maheshwar Rao, to redraw ward boundaries in five new Bengaluru corporations. Each ward will represent around 20,000 people ( $\pm 25\%$ ), respecting natural boundaries, community interests, and constituency limits. Bengaluru's population surged from 85 lakh (2011) to 144 lakh (2023), necessitating balanced representation. This exercise ensures fair governance, equitable leadership opportunities, and better urban management amid rapid growth, with special considerations for hilly and forested regions.

Karnataka Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar announced the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) at Bidadi as India's first AI-powered township. Spread over 8,493 acres with a ₹20,000 crore investment, it will adopt a work-live-play model and serve as Karnataka's second business hub. With over 2,000 acres for AI industries, dedicated skilling centres, 1,100 acres of green spaces, and upgraded connectivity, the project aims to generate lakhs of jobs while ensuring sustainable development and fair land compensation.

Madhusudan K.S., a dedicated teacher from a government school in Mysuru, has been honored with the National Teachers' Award 2025. He received the prestigious award from President Droupadi Murmu for his outstanding work in creating a "C-Lounge." This innovative makerspace equips students with hands-on learning experiences in robotics, AI, 3D printing, and drone technology. Madhusudan's initiative is praised for bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, empowering students to develop creative, sustainable projects. His recognition is a well-deserved honor that highlights the importance of fostering curiosity and innovation in education.

India's foodgrain output has risen from 50 to 350 million tonnes in three decades, yet nutritional security lags. With renewed focus on millets, ICAR has directed agricultural universities to promote their cultivation. The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad has developed eight high-yielding, climate-resilient millet varieties including foxtail (DFT-3), little millet (DLTM-5), barnyard (DBrM-5), finger (DFM-3), kodo (DKM-1), and proso (DPrM-5), alongside sesame (DSM-4). Yields range from 24–36 quintals per hectare, with improved fodder output. Breakthroughs also include hybrid sunflower RSFH-700, resistant to major diseases, and vegetable varieties of okra and tomato. Millet area expanded from 13 to 14.5 million hectares in three years.

Bengaluru's Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has launched "Track Duty," a new digital platform to monitor field officials and ensure timely mustering. The initiative follows a period of low attendance (75-85%) for waste collection auto-tippers, which led to the creation of new black spots. After advancing mustering time and temporarily using live location sharing on WhatsApp

The Karnataka government has sanctioned 6.17 acres at Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru to set up Quantum City (Q-City), envisioned as a hub for academic-industry collaboration, quantum hardware production, R&D clusters, and start-up incubation. This initiative, part of India's first Quantum India Bengaluru Conclave, aims to develop a \$20 billion quantum economy by 2035. Additionally, 8 acres were sanctioned for the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS-TIFR) to boost research and scientific development.

A Nimhans study under the N-SPRITE Urban Self-Harm Study (USHAS) found Bengaluru's suicide re-attempt rate at 1.19%, with deaths at 0.2%. Active since 2022 in 16 hospitals, USHAS provides suicide risk screening, brief interventions, and follow-ups. Of 20,861 people registered, 44% were aged 25–39, and 29% were 18–24. Men accounted for 56%, women 44%, and transgender persons 0.09%. Substance use showed higher risk. Interventions reached 16,264 individuals, significantly reducing suicide re-attempts.

The State government appointed B. Dinesh as the director of the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research.

Karnataka Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre declared the 8.61-acre Cantonment Railway Colony area in Bengaluru as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The site, with 371 trees of 50 species, is a vital lung space hosting diverse flora, fauna, and insects. Ecologically fragile yet culturally significant, it also has historical importance as Mahatma Gandhi met freedom fighters here in 1920.

Karnataka hosts over 50% of India's mid-market Global Capability Centres (GCCs), employing 74,000+ professionals, per the Karnataka Mid-Market GCC Report 2025 by KDEM and Zinnov. The state has 230+ of India's 480+ mid-market GCCs, expanding faster and maturing 1.4 times quicker than larger peers, focusing on AI-first strategies and CXO leadership. With the first dedicated GCC policy (2024), rich AI/ML talent, and infrastructure support, Karnataka has captured 65% of new mid-market GCCs since 2023.

Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) will fully digitalise its Customer Grievance Redressal Forum (CGRF) within three months through a dedicated portal and mobile app. Citizens can file complaints, track status, and appeal at district or corporate levels online. The system introduces automatic escalation—45 days at subdivision, 60 at district, and 30 at corporate level—ensuring timely resolution. Covering issues from billing errors to power delays, it aims at transparency, efficiency, and consumer convenience.

Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar announced that 'Akka Pade', a women's protection force, will be operational across Karnataka within three months. Each taluk will have a unit of trained policewomen and NCC members, equipped with arms, helplines, and facilities at bus stands and fairs. The force will combat public harassment, domestic violence, and injustices

The Karnataka government has capped cinema ticket prices at Rs 200 across theatres, under the amended Cinemas (Regulation) Rules, 2025. The rule excludes multiplexes with ≤75 premium seats. The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce welcomed the move, citing benefits for audiences and the Kannada film industry. The Film Exhibitors Federation opposed the exemption for select multiplexes, calling it biased against single-screen theatres.

The Karnataka government has formed a Cabinet sub-committee to examine regularisation or job security for 3.8 lakh contract employees in corporations, boards, and departments. The move aims to curb outsourcing lobbies and may include district-level cooperative societies for manpower hiring. Priority will be given to workers in hazardous sectors like the Energy Department. The Cabinet also approved a draft notification permitting biodiesel (B100) blending with high-speed diesel for transport and retail use.

The Karnataka Ratna, Karnataka's highest civilian honour, was instituted in 1992 to recognize extraordinary contributions across fields. Only ten individuals have received it, including Kuvempu (literature), Dr. Rajkumar (cinema), Nijalingappa (politics), N.R. Rao (science), Devi Shetty (medicine), Bhimsen Joshi (music), Shivakumara Swami (social service), Javare Gowda (education/literature), Veerendra Heggade (social service), and Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar (cinema/social service). The award includes a 50-gram gold medal, citation, memento, and shawl. Vishnuvardhan and B. Saroja Devi are the latest recipients.

The Bengaluru City Police, in collaboration with Happiest Health, launched 'Project Khushi', a three-month health and wellness initiative targeting lifestyle-related diseases among police personnel. It combines six live expert sessions in endocrinology, nutrition, Ayurveda, yoga, and mindfulness with weekly digital modules and WhatsApp support. Participants undergo health assessments, including glycaemic, organ function, thyroid, and vitamin tests. The programme aims to improve preventive care, holistic wellness, and efficiency of officers facing high-stress, irregular schedules.

The World Bank has approved a \$426 million (₹3,500 crore) loan for the Bengaluru Water Resilience Project (2026–2031), aiming to strengthen storm-water drains (SWDs) and build sewage treatment plants (STPs). With a total cost of ₹5,000 crore, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will implement SWDs while BWSSB handles STPs. Transitioning from BBMP, GBA marks its first independent project, aligning with Karnataka's Climate Action Plan to enhance urban resilience, flood mitigation, and sustainable infrastructure.

The prehistoric sites located in and around Hirebenakal in the Gangavathi taluk of the Koppal district, Karnataka, feature at least 30 rock paintings and over 100 megalithic structures, believed to be around 3,000 years old. The paintings depict human figures, animals, and hunting scenes, offering insights into Iron Age-megalithic period life. The sites are facing threats from stone quarrying, encroachment, agriculture, and natural weathering, causing the paintings to fade and structures to be damaged. Conservation efforts have been deemed inadequate by locals and historians. Inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage list is being sought to boost conservation and prevent further damage. The site is currently on UNESCO's tentative list.

Rolls-Royce inaugurated its largest Global Capability and Innovation Centre (GCC) in Bengaluru, a 700-seat facility at Manyata Embassy Business Park. The hub will house business, enterprise services, engineering, and digital teams supporting civil aerospace and defence.

The Karnataka government has expanded the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (ABArK) scheme to cover all citizens aged 70+ under the Vayo Vandana Yojana guidelines, including ESIS beneficiaries. Coverage applies irrespective of economic status, excluding those receiving free healthcare elsewhere. Existing AB PM-JAY families receive additional ₹5 lakh top-ups, while new families get exclusive ₹5 lakh coverage for seniors. Aadhaar-based e-KYC and declarations are mandatory, with registration via the Ayushman app or portal, enhancing healthcare access for vulnerable elderly citizens.

The Karnataka Department of Science and Technology (DST) will launch teacher-training workshops under its Provide Access to Telescopes (PAT) programme, aimed at distributing telescopes to 833 residential government schools. In collaboration with KSTePS and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, 20-hour workshops will train 60–70 teachers per batch in 12 cities. Training covers telescope use, sky mapping, equipment maintenance, observation planning, and forming astronomy clubs. Teachers will receive manuals, conduct live demonstrations, and schedule astronomy sessions for students.

The Karnataka government plans to resubmit its proposal to include the Kuruba community in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list, reigniting debates on ST designation criteria. Article 342 empowers the President to notify STs, based on historical and socio-anthropological criteria like primitive traits, cultural distinctiveness, isolation, and backwardness. Inclusion involves state recommendation, NCST and expert consultation, and a Constitutional Amendment via special parliamentary majority. ST status grants reservations in education, jobs, and political representation, balancing social justice with empirical assessment.

An awareness programme at Victoria Hospital highlighted early detection and treatment of sepsis, a leading ICU death cause. Experts emphasized prompt recognition, antibiotic administration, and source control within 12 hours. Vulnerable groups include the elderly, infants, diabetics, immunocompromised, and chronically ill. Common causes are pneumonia, urinary tract infections, skin wounds, and secondary hospital infections. Limiting hospital visitations, early antibiotics, and ICU care are critical, as untreated sepsis can rapidly lead to multiple organ failure and death.

Karnataka State Board schools saw a sharp decline in enrolment for 2025-26, totaling 99.47 lakh, down from 1.04 crore in 2024-25. Government schools lost 2.54 lakh students, aided schools 77,000, and private unaided schools 1.7 lakh. Government schools have lost 7.26 lakh students since 2023-24. Key reasons include declining birth rates, inadequate infrastructure, vacant teaching positions, and low education quality. Experts urge improvements in infrastructure, staffing, and learning standards to retain students.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah launched the 'Deepika Student Scholarship' to support higher education for girls in government schools and colleges. A joint initiative by the Department of Higher Education and the Azim Premji Foundation, it provides ₹30,000 annually to eligible students who have completed SSLC and PUC, enrolling in general, professional, or diploma courses. Initially targeting 37,000 students from 2025-26, the scholarship promotes gender equality, reduces financial barriers, and reflects Premji's vision of quality education for all.

In Karnataka, childhood cancers constitute about 2% of annual cancer cases, with 1,882 of 87,855 cases being pediatric. Bengaluru reports 2.1% pediatric cases, causing 1.5% of cancer deaths. KMIO registered 601 cases in 2024 (4.6% of total). Leukaemia is most common, followed by lymphomas, brain, bone, and kidney cancers. Timely diagnosis ensures over 70% curability. Challenges include delayed diagnosis and therapy interruptions.



Awareness initiatives, including Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, aim to improve early detection and treatment adherence.

Nimhans launches Ayush Mann, a month-long awareness campaign on Integrative Medicine for Mental Well-being. Programme combines allopathy, yoga, and ayurvedic treatments like panchakarma. Over 10,000 patients treated so far by the Integrative Medicine Department. Disorders treated: anxiety, depression, Parkinson's, schizophrenia, OCD, and others.

Bengaluru Airport City Ltd. (BACL) has signed an agreement with GAIL Gas Ltd. to develop a City Gas Distribution (CGD) facility at Bengaluru Airport City. The proposed facility will include a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station and associated infrastructure, Piped Natural Gas (PNG) installations, and other clean energy solutions. Along with fuel services, the station will feature non-fuel retail and convenience offerings for the wider public.

The Kannada literary world mourns the passing of S L Bhyrappa, one of the most widely read authors in the language. Known for his visual storytelling, Bhyrappa authored 24 novels over six decades, creating more than 500 distinctive characters.

Hubballi-Dharwad, Karnataka's second biggest city, is fast emerging as a startup hub. Over the past 13 years, eight incubation centres have mentored around 1,000 startups, with 172 still active. Government and private initiatives since 2012 have fostered entrepreneurship, particularly in agri-tech and IT. Four startups have crossed ₹100 crore turnover, while the Elevate-100 programme funded 69 startups with ₹15.39 crore. With low costs, less congestion, and local talent, the city contributes ₹3,500 crore in IT exports, driven by the "Beyond Bengaluru" policy.

**POLITY**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025 under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, empowering the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) with legal authority to tackle immigration fraud and regulate foreigner movement. Key provisions include mandatory biometric data of all foreigners, reporting duties for educational institutions, expanded powers for civil authorities, stricter airline reporting, and FRRO monitoring. These reforms aim to enhance immigration control, strengthen security, and prevent visa misuse in India.

The Revised Suspension of Operations (SoO) Pact (2025) with Kuki-Zo groups tightens norms after the May 2023 Manipur ethnic violence. The pact, valid for one year, mandates Aadhaar-linked stipend disbursement, photo IDs by Manipur Police, and reduced camps (6 each for KNO/UPF). Camps must avoid borders, highways, and populated/conflict zones. Groups must abjure violence, avoid ties with other armed groups, and cease recruitment. A verified cadre list will exclude foreign nationals, with security forces ensuring compliance.

C P Radhakrishnan current Maharashtra Governor, has been elected as the 15th Vice-President of India. The Vice-President, under Articles 63–71, is the second-highest constitutional authority, ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha, and acts as President during a vacancy. Elected by an Electoral College of both Houses of Parliament through proportional representation by single transferable vote, the Vice-President serves a five-year term, with eligibility conditions akin to a Rajya Sabha member

The Delhi High Court heard filmmaker Karan Johar's plea to protect his personality and publicity rights from disparaging online content, reflecting India's evolving recognition of personality rights. These rights safeguard a public figure's name, image, likeness, and unique persona from unauthorized use, ensuring brand equity. Indian courts, through cases like Jackie Shroff (2024), link personality rights with privacy (Article 21) and intellectual property principles, though no statutory definition exists. Performer's rights under the Copyright Act further complement protection.

The Supreme Court has appointed a committee, chaired by former Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, to demarcate leased areas and reserved forests along the Andhra Pradesh–Karnataka border. Tasked with investigating illegal encroachments, mining, and unauthorized activities, the committee includes officials from AP's mining, environment, and revenue departments, as well as a Union Ministry nominee. Proposed by AP's advocate Sidharth Luthra, the committee must submit its report in three months. Obulapuram Mining Company opposed extending its mandate, but SC accepted formation.

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**SCHEMES**

APEDA has launched the BHARATI initiative (Bharat’s Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement) to boost agri-food exports. Beginning September 2025, it will support 100 startups with training in product development, export readiness, packaging, and sustainability. Focus areas include organic food, GI-tagged items, AYUSH products, and AI/Blockchain-based solutions. Aligning with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Digital India, BHARATI targets \$50 billion agri-food exports by 2030, fostering innovation, reducing wastage, and strengthening India’s global agri-food presence

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹1,500 crore scheme (FY 2025–26 to 2030–31) to promote recycling of e-waste, lithium-ion batteries, and other scraps to recover critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel. The scheme offers capital (20%) and operational subsidies (linked to sales), with special support for small/new recyclers. Expected outcomes include 270 kilo tonnes annual recycling capacity, 40 kilo tonnes mineral output, ₹8,000 crore investments, 70,000 jobs, and reduced import dependence for green energy and EV industries.

The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs launched Angikaar 2025 under PMAY-U 2.0 to create awareness and accelerate housing implementation. Running for two months across 5,000+ Urban Local Bodies, it focuses on vulnerable urban sections, fast-tracks application verification, and expedites sanctioned house completion. Activities include door-to-door outreach and community mobilisation. PMAY-U 2.0 provides all-weather pucca houses with government assistance of up to ₹2.5 lakh per unit.

The Union Minister of Textiles recently launched the Kapas Kisan App, developed by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). It enables farmers to sell cotton under MSP with self-registration, slot booking, and real-time payment tracking. The app reduces waiting time, ensures transparent transactions, and supports multiple Indian languages. By minimizing paperwork and offering digital scheduling, it protects farmers from distress sales, improves planning, and brings speed, convenience, and transparency to cotton procurement.

The Rajasthan Assembly passed the Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Bill, 2025, prescribing 7–14 years’ jail for fraudulent conversions and 20 years to life for mass conversions. Conversions of minors, women, SC/STs, and disabled persons attract 10–20 years’ jail with fines. The bill also penalizes illegal foreign funding, allows property confiscation, and annuls marriages for forced conversions. The government said it upholds Article 25’s freedom of religion but bars conversions through deceit or coercion.

The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has launched SPREE-2025 and the Amnesty Scheme-2025 to expand social security and ease compliance. SPREE-2025, open till 31 December 2025, enables voluntary registration of unregistered employers and workers without past dues. The Amnesty Scheme, valid from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026, offers a one-time dispute resolution window for cases on damages, interest, and coverage. Both initiatives aim to reduce litigation, encourage voluntary compliance, and strengthen ESIC’s coverage.

The Union Government has reopened the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (ACs and LED lights) from Sept 15–Oct 14, 2025. Approved in April 2021 with an outlay of ₹6,238 crore (2021–22 to 2028–29), the scheme promotes domestic manufacturing, reduces import dependence, and boosts self-reliance. So far, 83 applicants with ₹10,406 crore investment have been approved. The reopening reflects growing demand, industry confidence, and India’s goal of becoming a global white goods hub.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has drafted India’s first National Policy on Geothermal Energy to promote it as a renewable resource supporting the 2070 net-zero target. The policy emphasizes research, cost-effective technologies, data repository creation, and global collaboration. With the Geological Survey of India identifying 10 geothermal provinces, the plan includes FDI allowance, indigenous technology promotion, and oil-gas sector linkages. Effective implementation could diversify India’s renewable mix and strengthen energy security.

**SOCIAL ISSUES**

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The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) launched Phase II of **Niveshak Didi** in Hyderabad, focusing on financial literacy for rural women. The initiative strengthens financial awareness, expands outreach, introduces interactive training modules, and partners with grassroots organizations. It emphasizes savings, investment safety, fraud prevention, and digital transactions. Supported by India Post Payments Bank, the program empowers women to make informed financial decisions, bridging knowledge gaps and fostering a financially resilient society.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched **Adi Vaani**, India's first AI-powered tribal language translation platform, to preserve endangered languages and empower tribal communities. The beta version supports Santali, Bhili, Mundari, and Gondi, with Kui and Garo under development. Features include real-time translation, interactive learning, and digitization of folklore. Developed with IITs, IIITs, and State TRIs, **Adi Vaani** bridges communication gaps in education, healthcare, and governance, aligning with Digital India, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, and Viksit Bharat 2047.

The WHO reports a global mental health crisis with over 1 billion people affected. Anxiety and depression account for two-thirds of cases, with the sharpest rise among youth (20–29 years). Suicide, the leading cause of young deaths, saw 727,000 global deaths in 2021. India faces rising suicides (1.64 lakh in 2021) and severe manpower shortages. While the UN aims for a one-third reduction in suicides by 2030, projections show only 12% unless urgent measures are taken.

India's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has dropped to 25 per 1,000 live births in 2023, a 37.5% decline over the past decade. Kerala (5) and Tamil Nadu (12) have achieved the UN SDG target of 12, while other states like Karnataka and Maharashtra are close. However, central states—UP, MP, and Chhattisgarh—still record the highest IMR at 37. Birth rates also declined nationally, signaling demographic transition and a growing working-age population, though regional disparities persist.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has requested the Registrar General of India (RGI) to enumerate Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) separately in the upcoming Census 2025. This aims to capture detailed demographic, cultural, and socio-economic data to improve welfare schemes like PM JANMAN. Currently, 75 PVTGs exist across 18 States and A&N Islands, facing poverty, malnutrition, and geographic isolation. Separate enumeration will aid precise targeting, policy planning, and re-examination of classification criteria for inclusive development.

The Kerala government will launch **NoRKA Care**, a medical insurance scheme for non-resident Keralites, offering cashless medical services up to ₹5 lakh in over 17,000 hospitals across India, including 470 in Kerala. Jointly with New India Assurance, it provides a personal accident cover of ₹10 lakh. Covering pre-existing diseases with no waiting period, the family premium is ₹13,400 for four members. Citizens aged 18–70 can enroll, with no age limit for dependent children.

The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry launched the beta version of “**Adi Sanskriti**”, a digital platform for “tribal artforms and heritage”. Officials said it had been envisioned to become the “world’s first Digital University to preserve and promote the culture and knowledge of tribal communities”. The digital platform will have an online marketplace, opening up a digital market for products made by tribal artisans in India. The platform consists of three components: **Adi Vishwavidyalaya** (Digital Tribal Art Academy), **Adi Sampada** (Socio-Cultural Repository), and **Adi Haat** (digital marketplace).

Himachal Pradesh has been declared a fully literate state with a 99.3% literacy rate, joining Goa, Tripura, Mizoram, and Ladakh. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan noted India's literacy rise from 74% (2011) to 80.9% (2023-24). The achievement is linked to the **ULLAS–Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** (2022–27), under which 3 crore learners and 42 lakh volunteers participated. Literacy is defined as reading, writing, numeracy, and life skills. The NEP 2020 emphasizes adult education and digital literacy.

The South Western Railway's Railway Protection Force (RPF) reached out to 2,08,869 solo women travellers across 4,869 trains this year under **Operation Meri Saheli**. Launched in 2020, the initiative ensures safe boarding, journey assistance, and emergency support. SWR has 10 dedicated teams with 25 women personnel. Nationwide, 250 teams cover 500 trains daily, assisting nearly 13,000 women. Feedback highlights enhanced safety, confidence, and trust in Indian Railways' women-centric safety efforts.



On 9 September 2025, the Ho tribe in West Singhbhum, Jharkhand, protested against alleged interference by the Deputy Commissioner in removing village heads (Mundas). The district clarified that the Manki-Munda system, a hereditary, decentralized governance model resolving socio-political disputes, remains intact. Historically, British colonial policies, including the Permanent Settlement and Wilkinson's Rules, affected Ho autonomy. Presently, tensions persist between customary law and modern administration, highlighting the tribe's concerns over self-governance, identity, and recognition of traditional judicial bodies.

EPFO launched *Passbook Lite*, giving members a quick view of PF contributions, withdrawals, and balance, reducing portal delays and login issues. Detailed passbook views remain online. Additionally, Annexure K (PF transfer certificate) is now downloadable in PDF, letting members track transfers directly, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and overall satisfaction.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar' (SNSP) Abhiyaan with the 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh. The campaign, led by MoHFW and MoWCD, provides preventive, promotive, and curative health services for women and children through over 10 lakh health camps nationwide. It focuses on disease screening, maternal and adolescent health, nutrition, and mental wellness. Free tests, medicines, and Ayushman Bharat coverage are provided. Grassroots mobilisation involves ASHAs, ANMs, volunteers, and public representatives.

The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) is developing an AI-powered Large Language Model (LLM) to enhance audit efficiency and consistency, leveraging historical inspection reports. Features include data analysis, report generation, and audit support, with the first version by November 2025. Digitisation enables remote audits, improving speed, transparency, and accountability. The Connect Portal will allow 10 lakh audit entities to access reports and respond online. This initiative strengthens institutional auditing, promotes digital governance, and advances AI-enabled public administration in India.

The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), effective from April 1, 2025, allows central government employees to opt in until September 30, 2025. Approved in August 2024, it bridges gaps between the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and National Pension System (NPS). UPS assures 50% of last-year basic pay after 25 years, Rs 10,000 minimum monthly pension, family benefits, and inflation adjustment, while retaining contributory features. It balances OPS's security and NPS's sustainability, addressing employee concerns and inter-generational equity.

### ECONOMY

Thoothukudi, once hobbled by the Sterlite plant's closure, is now a thriving industrial hub. Driven by government decentralization policy and its strategic port, the city is attracting major investments. The arrival of EV maker VinFast was a game-changer, followed by electronics firms like Kaynes Circuits and Yeemak & Jeanuvs. With a massive green hydrogen plant by Sembcorp and ISRO's new spaceport nearby, Thoothukudi is firmly re-established as a premier destination for diverse industries.

Unity Small Finance Bank, in partnership with BharatPe and NPCI, launched India's first RuPay EMI-based credit card, the Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card. It allows repayment in full or EMIs up to 12 months, with UPI linkage for wide acceptance. The card features zero fees, no foreclosure charges, rewards on EMI spends, and additional perks like lounge access and health check-ups. Available digitally via BharatPe app, it targets salaried and self-employed individuals, expanding organized credit access.

Despite RBI cutting repo rates by 100 basis points in seven months, India's 10-year bond yield rose by 26 basis points. Normally, rate cuts reduce yields, but inflation worries and higher government borrowing needs reversed the trend. Proposed GST slab reforms may cause revenue shortfalls of ₹50,000–60,000 crore, prompting increased borrowing. Greater supply of bonds lowers prices, raising yields. Investors expect higher borrowing costs, steepening the yield curve. RBI may use OMOs or Operation Twist to stabilize yields.

The 56th GST Council meeting approved GST 2.0, a major tax reform effective September 22, 2025. It replaces four slabs with a two-slab structure (5% & 18%) plus a 40% demerit rate for sin/luxury goods. Essentials, healthcare, education, and agriculture items see lower taxes, easing household and farmer burdens.



Automobiles, electronics, and white goods also become cheaper. Reforms include automated refunds, quick registration, and correction of duty structures, aimed at boosting demand, MSMEs, and compliance ease.

India's semiconductor sector is set to reach \$103.5 billion by 2030 from \$54.3 billion in 2025, growing at 13.8% CAGR. The market is shifting from consumption-led devices to a global hub for design, R&D, and manufacturing. Key growth drivers include EVs, 5G rollout, and data centres. The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) aims to invest ₹1.6 lakh crore and create 29,000+ jobs. Talent pool expected to rise from 250,000 to 400,000 by 2030, with Bengaluru and Hyderabad as key hubs.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Blue dragons (*Glaucus atlanticus*), a small sea slug, have appeared on Spanish beaches, causing closures due to their powerful, venomous sting. These creatures are unique; they float upside down on the ocean's surface by swallowing an air bubble. They feed on venomous siphonophores like the Portuguese man o' war and store the stinging cells in their bodies to use as their own defense. Their rare presence in the Mediterranean Sea has led scientists to link their arrival to rising ocean temperatures

A recent study on Maldives' Mahutigalaa reef using coral microatolls has reconstructed 90 years of sea-level history (1930–2019). Findings show a rise of 30–40 cm, beginning in the late 1950s, earlier than previously assumed. Current rise (~4 mm/year) exceeds the global average (3.3 mm/year). This threatens low-lying islands like Maldives and Lakshadweep, with coral reefs stressed by ocean warming, El Niño, and IOD events. The study underscores microatolls' value as natural sea-level markers

As the Great Salt Lake in northern Utah shrinks, scientists are discovering hidden groundwater-fed oases beneath its drying lakebed. The largest inland saltwater body in the Western Hemisphere, it is fed by the Bear, Weber, and Jordan rivers but has no outlet. Its size fluctuates with evaporation and river flow, ranging from 6,200 km<sup>2</sup> in 1873 to 2,300 km<sup>2</sup> in 2022. Extremely saline, shallow, and isolated, the lake contains sodium chloride, sulfates, magnesium, and potassium.

Researchers in Kerala have discovered a new yam species, *Dioscorea balakrishnanii*, in Wayanad's Western Ghats. Locally called chola kizhangu by the Kattunayikar tribes, the tuber is edible, flavorful, and found only in evergreen shola forests. Studied for ten years, it shows distinct male and female varieties. Belonging to the Dioscoreaceae family, it adds to Wayanad's rich diversity of wild tubers. The discovery is significant for ecosystem conservation, food security, and medicinal applications, offering potential as a low-glycemic food crop.

According to the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) 2025, nearly all Indians breathe air dirtier than WHO's safe limit of 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Northern plains, including Delhi, face the worst pollution, reducing life expectancy by up to 8.2 years. Even India's lenient PM2.5 standard (40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) is exceeded in 46% of areas. Cross-border emissions from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan worsen conditions. Globally, PM2.5 rose by 1.5% in 2023, though China shows progress through strict pollution-control measures.

The Union Environment Ministry has notified new rules under the Green Credit Programme (GCP), launched at COP28 in 2023. It promotes voluntary eco-activities like afforestation, water conservation, and waste management. Now, green credits will be awarded only after 5 years, based on tree survival and 40% canopy density (earlier 2 years). One credit equals one tree older than five years. Credits, largely non-transferable, may aid CSR, ESG reporting, and environmental restoration. Over 57,986 hectares are registered under GCP.

On August 31, 2025, a 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, killing over 800 people. Earthquakes occur when tectonic plates slip, releasing energy as seismic waves. Shallow quakes are more destructive. Afghanistan is highly vulnerable due to its location on the collision zone of Indian and Eurasian plates, with multiple fault lines and a history of deadly quakes. India too is earthquake-prone, with 59% of land at risk, especially the Himalayan region.

The Union Environment Ministry has introduced Environment Audit Rules, 2025, establishing an independent cadre of environment auditors. Accredited private agencies will assess compliance with environmental laws, pollution control measures, and sustainable practices. This supplements State Pollution Control Boards,

addressing manpower and resource gaps. The audits will also count toward compliance with Green Credit Rules, enabling tradeable credits for eco-friendly activities. The reform enhances transparency, accountability, and efficiency in environmental governance, aligning with India's sustainable development and climate goals.

India is drafting legislation to safeguard its interests in international waters after the adoption of the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ). The treaty, under UNCLOS (1982), seeks to regulate biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions by curbing overexploitation, creating Marine Protected Areas, and ensuring equitable resource sharing. High seas cover nearly 64% of the ocean, vital for navigation, fishing, and mining. India's draft law, guided by a 12-member committee, will balance conservation goals with national strategic and economic interests.

India is drafting legislation to protect its interests in international waters under the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ – Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions). The treaty, a legally binding agreement under UNCLOS (1982), aims to curb pollution, regulate seabed mining, establish Marine Protected Areas, and ensure equitable sharing of marine genetic resources. India has signed but not ratified it. A 12-member committee will draft the law, balancing conservation with national strategic and economic interests.

Scientists have confirmed a vast hidden freshwater aquifer beneath the seafloor off the northeastern US coast, stretching from New Jersey to Maine. Initially hinted at 50 years ago, Expedition 501 extracted 50,000 litres of samples to verify its presence. The aquifer could help address global freshwater scarcity, though challenges like extraction, technology, costs, and environmental impact remain. Researchers aim to study its origin and sustainability for future use.

A WWF-India survey (July–Sept 2024) documented six wild cat species above 4,200 m in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang and West Kameng. The species are snow leopard, common leopard, clouded leopard, leopard cat, marbled cat, and Pallas's cat—with the latter photographed in the state for the first time. Using 136 camera traps across 2,000 sq. km, researchers recorded India's highest elevations for several species. Supported by the UK Government, this finding expands knowledge of Himalayan biodiversity and human–wildlife coexistence.

A special survey by the Uttarakhand Forest Department in collaboration with WWF-India recorded a rise in tiger numbers in Ramnagar division (adjacent to Corbett Tiger Reserve) from 67 in 2022 to 96 in 2025, using 1,059 camera trap images. The increase is attributed to Forest Landscape Restoration efforts. India, home to 3,167 tigers (2022), holds over 70% of the global population. Tigers remain endangered (IUCN), protected under Schedule I, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Assam, India's largest tea-producing state, faces a crisis due to falling prices and rising imports from Africa, especially Kenya. Assam contributes nearly 50% of India's tea, vital for its GSDP and employment. In 2024, India imported 17.13 million kg of cheaper Kenyan tea, a 225% surge. This blending practice threatens Assam's brand value. The Tea Board of India, established in 1954, regulates imports, exports, and welfare schemes, but the industry continues to struggle with oversupply, climate change, and low productivity.

Indore topped the Swachh Vayu Survekshan (SVS) 2025 among million-plus cities under the NCAP, though its PM10 levels rose from 82  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (2017-18) to 83  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (2024-25). Jabalpur, Agra, Surat, Navi Mumbai, and Kanpur followed in rankings, while Delhi stood at 32nd. In smaller categories, Amravati and Dewas led. Minister Bhupender Yadav highlighted PM10 reductions in 103 cities, with Mumbai showing the steepest fall. Only Chennai met NAAQS norms, while Delhi exceeded the limit at 203  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first bamboo-based ethanol plant at Numaligarh Refinery, Assam, built at a cost of ₹5,000 crore. Claimed as the world's first zero-waste bamboo bioethanol facility, it will source 5 lakh tonnes of bamboo annually from the Northeast. The plant will produce ethanol, acetic acid, furfural, and food-grade CO<sub>2</sub>, boosting Assam's rural economy by ₹200 crore annually. It aligns with clean energy goals, "Viksit Bharat" vision, and rural empowerment through bamboo policy reforms.

Australia's veterinary medicine regulator has approved the world's first chlamydia vaccine for koalas, developed by the University of the Sunshine Coast after a decade of research. The single-dose vaccine reduces symptomatic infections and lowers mortality by 65%, crucial for wild populations where infection rates reach 70%. With fewer than 100,000 koalas remaining in some estimates, the vaccine offers a safer alternative to antibiotics, while habitat loss remains the primary long-term threat.

Vasikaran (Vasi), a male sloth bear rescued from Ballari and treated at Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre, has become the world's first rescued sloth bear to receive a prosthetic leg. After losing a hind leg in a snare trap injury, Vasi adapted to three-legged life until prosthetics expert Derrick Campana, in collaboration with Wildlife SOS, fitted him with a custom limb. The innovation marks a global milestone in animal welfare, conservation, and prosthetic science.

In northern Greece's Naousa orchards, scientists are releasing sterile male Mediterranean fruit flies under the EU-funded REACT project (€6.65 million, 12 countries). The flies, bred at the University of Patras with bacterial supplements, compete with wild females, producing no offspring and reducing pest populations. This Enhanced Sterile Insect Technique is eco-friendly, pesticide-free, and organic-compatible. The project aims to protect peaches and counter invasive Asian fruit flies, which climate change is driving into Europe, threatening global food security.

India has secured its first International Seabed Authority (ISA) licence to explore polymetallic sulphide nodules in the Carlsberg Ridge, northwest Indian Ocean. These nodules, rich in manganese, cobalt, nickel, and copper, are crucial for advanced technologies and renewable energy. Covering 3,00,000 sq. km, the region lies along the Indian-Arabian tectonic plate boundary. The move strengthens India's blue economy, ensures strategic access to critical minerals, and enhances its geopolitical presence in the Indian Ocean.

Hailing Shimla-based Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) and the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) for advancing potato technologies, Dr. Brajesh Singh, director of ICAR-CPRI, said India now ranks second in potato production and is a key exporter. Speaking at the 43rd Annual Group Meeting of AICRP-Potato at the College of Horticulture, Bengaluru, he noted South India's potential. Vice-Chancellor Vishnuvardhana emphasized Karnataka for seed production and developing heat-tolerant, disease-resistant varieties. Seventy scientists participated, organized by UHS Bagalkot, HREC Hassan, and CPRI Shimla.

For the first time outside COVID years, India's electricity sector saw a 1% decline in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Jan–Jun 2025), per CREA analysis. The fall was driven by milder weather, strong monsoons reducing cooling demand, and record renewable capacity addition (25.1 GW). Non-fossil sources now account for 50.1% of installed capacity, placing India third globally in solar and wind. This progress, aligned with India's Paris Agreement goals, indicates emissions could peak before 2030.

A surge in the overall count of dragonflies and damselflies and a new species – a new survey across seven DDA biodiversity parks in Delhi has brought good news. At the Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Yellow-tailed Ashy Skimmer (*Potamarcha congener*) has been recorded for the first time. Dragonflies and damselflies are bioindicators or species whose presence tracks wetland health. Their larval stages require clean, well-oxygenated water, and both larvae and adults are voracious mosquito predators.

India has proposed to significantly revamp its key vehicle emissions rules, called the Corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFE) norms, and has introduced a draft of the third iteration of the key standards. The proposed CAFE 3 norms propose to address a long standing demand by some carmakers in the country, that is to offer emissions' relaxation to small, light-weight cars, a metric that is already followed in some countries globally.

### SCIENCE

A landmark study in Nature has provided direct evidence of the long-theorized onion-like shell structure of massive stars (>8 solar masses). Using data from the Zwicky Transient Facility, researchers observed supernova SN 2021yfj, detecting silicon and sulphur layers near the iron core. This confirms the concentric shell fusion model (H, He → C, O, Ne, Mg → Si, S → Fe). The finding also revealed a new, rare Type Icn supernova, deepening insights into stellar evolution and cosmic element formation.

Hon'ble Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched the AI-powered India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 app with the theme "Innovate to Transform." The app, hailed as intelligent, interactive, and inclusive, aims to transform user experience with real-time features, AI tools, and networking boosts.

Researchers have developed a novel nitro-substituted organoselenium compound, diselenide 7, that targets aggressive triple-negative breast cancer. Synthesized via nucleophilic substitution of benzylic halides, it reduces



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tumor invasiveness by modulating multiple signaling pathways, including Akt/mTOR and ERK, while generating reactive oxygen species and reducing inflammation. In mouse models, it decreased tumor growth, angiogenesis, and metastasis, extending lifespan. This study underscores organoselenium compounds as promising multitarget anticancer agents with potential for effective breast cancer therapy.

Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, achieved a historic soft landing on the Moon's south pole on 23 August 2023, making India the first nation to do so. The mission's lander and rover conducted multiple experiments. ISRO has now invited research proposals for scientists across Indian institutions to study its data. Projects, lasting up to three years, aim to boost lunar science, foster multidisciplinary research, and strengthen India's global space research standing.

CEREBO is a hand-held, portable, non-invasive brain diagnostic device jointly developed by ICMR, MDMS, AIIMS Bhopal, NIMHANS Bengaluru, and Bioscan Research. It detects Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs), including bleeding and swelling, within a minute. Radiation-free, safe for infants and pregnant women, and usable by paramedics, it is vital where CT/MRI are unavailable, especially in rural or disaster zones. Clinically validated, CEREBO aids rapid triage, early detection, and cost reduction, thereby improving TBI outcomes and reducing long-term socio-economic burdens.

The Centre's Suspect Registry, launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in September 2024 under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), has completed ten months, preventing 13 lakh fraudulent transactions and saving ₹5,111.80 crore. Linked to the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, it shares data of 1.4 million suspects with 61 banks and agencies. With over 3.54 lakh accounts frozen, it strengthens India's multi-agency approach against cyber fraud, enhancing financial security, rapid reporting, and victim compensation.

At the Semicon India 2025 conference, India unveiled Vikram 3201, its first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor developed by ISRO and SCL, Chandigarh. Designed for rockets and satellites, it withstands  $-55^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+125^{\circ}\text{C}$  and is an upgrade of the 16-bit Vikram 1601. With 64-bit floating-point operations, Ada programming support, and on-chip 1553B bus, it enhances navigation, mission management, and communication. Successfully tested on PSLV-C60, it reduces foreign dependence, boosts Atmanirbhar Bharat, and supports India's semiconductor ecosystem expansion.

Scientists at Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, with ISRO, have designed PRATUSH Radiometer (Probing ReionizATIOn of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen), a radio telescope mission to be placed on the Moon's far side. Operating in the 30–250 MHz range, it will study the Cosmic Dawn, when the first stars and galaxies formed. Using a single-board computer for control, PRATUSH aims to reveal insights into the universe's "dark ages," star formation, and cosmic evolution.

Kerala's health sector successfully treated a 17-year-old boy with a rare dual infection of amoebic meningoencephalitis and Aspergillus flavus fungus. This is believed to be the first documented case globally where a patient survived both infections. After being treated at two different hospitals, the boy underwent multiple neurosurgeries. He made a full recovery after three months of intensive treatment, showcasing a significant medical achievement for the state. This case highlights the expertise of the medical teams involved.

Scientists found 55-million-year-old jarosite in Gujarat's Matanomadh village, an Earth site resembling Martian conditions. Such "analog sites" help test rovers, instruments, and human survival for planetary exploration. ISRO's Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration (HOPE), inaugurated in Ladakh's Tso Kar Valley in July 2025, simulates Mars-like conditions—thin air, freezing cold, and high UV. Its objectives include astronaut training for Gaganyaan, Mars, and lunar habitats. India already succeeded with Mangalyaan (2014–2022) and plans Mangalyaan-2 by 2026.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Semicon India 2025, announcing the next phase of the India Semiconductor Mission (2021, ₹76,000 crore). The mission aims to build fabs, testing plants, and design ecosystems. Government initiatives include plug-and-play infrastructure, single-window clearance, incentives, and training 60,000 engineers. Chips, called "digital diamonds," power modern technology. With a \$600 billion global market set to reach \$1 trillion, India seeks a major share, despite supply chain and manufacturing challenges.

Researchers at S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS) discovered that protein p47, previously known as a helper for the cellular machine p97, can act as a “mechanical chaperone.” Unlike its traditional role in protein trafficking and degradation, p47 stabilizes polypeptides under stress, aids their movement from the ER to the cytoplasm, and prevents misfolding. This first single-molecule evidence highlights its autonomous force-dependent activity, opening avenues for therapies targeting protein instability.

India has developed a rare, high-purity Methandienone Long-Term Metabolite (LTM) as a Reference Material (RM) for enhanced anti-doping testing. Created by NIPER with NDTL, it aids in detecting athletes using Methandienone and over 450 WADA-prohibited substances. This RM improves detection, strengthens sports integrity, and deters steroid use. NDTL is India’s premier human sports dope testing lab, accredited by NABL and WADA.

The Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) will replace the historic Indian Science Congress (ISC), whose relevance has declined, last held in 2023. First edition: November 3–4, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with participation from all science ministries, 11 technical sessions, and 75 deep-tech start-up exhibitions. Global dignitaries, including Nobel Laureate Andre Geim, will attend. ESTIC aims to revive India’s global scientific image and support Viksit Bharat 2047, marking a modern transition from ISC.

India has joined the HealthAI Global Regulatory Network (GRN) to strengthen oversight of AI in healthcare. GRN, a Geneva-based nonprofit, promotes safe and equitable use of AI health tools through shared learning, joint standards, early warnings, and a global directory of AI solutions. India will collaborate via ICMR-NIRDHDS and IndiaAI, the government initiative under MeitY, aiming to build a comprehensive AI ecosystem and position India as a leader in ethical AI innovation and deployment.

Before India’s first human spaceflight under Gaganyaan (2027), ISRO is conducting Gaganyaan Analog Experiments (Gyanex) to prepare astronauts. These missions simulate spacecraft-like conditions in a static mock-up simulator at Bengaluru. Astronauts undergo confinement, follow strict routines, and conduct experiments with limited resources, including DRDO-developed food. Gyanex-1 (July 2025) lasted 10 days with three astronauts, testing acclimatization, protocol development, and physiological-psychological impacts. Insights will refine procedures and ensure crew safety for the upcoming space mission.

The Union Government has approved licences for five Indian firms to produce AdFalciVax, India’s first indigenous multi-stage malaria vaccine. Developed by ICMR with national research institutes, the vaccine targets Plasmodium falciparum, preventing infection before it enters the bloodstream. With a shelf life of nine months at room temperature, it is affordable and scalable. India, contributing 66% of malaria cases in WHO’s Southeast Asia region, aims to advance malaria elimination through this innovation.

A team at JNTBGRI, Thiruvananthapuram, has developed a novel wound-healing pad using red ivy (*Strobilanthes alternata*), traditionally used for cuts and wounds. For the first time, the bioactive molecule acteoside was isolated from this plant. Incorporated into a multi-layered nanofiber pad with neomycin, acteoside enhances healing even at 0.2% concentration. The eco-friendly, biodegradable pad ensures controlled drug release, efficient gas exchange, and accelerated tissue repair, integrating traditional knowledge with nanotechnology for advanced wound care applications.

The Indian Navy commissioned INS Aravali, a cutting-edge information and communication centre, in Gurugram to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and command capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The centre complements existing facilities like IFC-IOR and IMAC, providing additional operational and communication support. Its commissioning aligns with India’s plan to launch naval satellites GSAT-7R and a Technology Demonstration Satellite, strengthening surveillance, communication, and coordination amid evolving regional security challenges.

India unveiled the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025 to streamline and rationalise revenue procurement for the armed forces, covering procurement worth nearly ₹1 lakh crore this fiscal. Approved by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the manual emphasises timely resource availability, cost efficiency, and jointness among the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Replacing the 2009 version, DPM 2025 focuses on self-reliance, modernisation, and readiness to meet emerging requirements of modern warfare while reducing delays in decision-making.

Scientists at the University of Tasmania developed Aquamonitrix, a portable ion chromatograph enabling on-site chemical analysis of soil and water. Unlike conventional lab systems costing ~\$100,000, this battery-operated device (~\$10,000) is cost-effective, eco-friendly, and user-friendly. Equipped with a UV detector, it measures nitrate and nitrite accurately. Aquamonitrix serves both as an educational tool and an environmental monitoring solution, useful for studying nitrogen cycles, detecting pollutants like arsenic, and bridging theory with practical field applications.

On 15 September 2025, NITI Aayog launched two key initiatives under its Frontier Tech Hub: the AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap and the NITI Frontier Tech Repository. Aiming to transform India into a Developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047, the roadmap focuses on accelerating AI adoption across industries and leveraging Generative AI for R&D. The repository showcases 200+ tech impact stories in agriculture, healthcare, education, and security. New programs include Frontier 50 for aspirational districts and NITI Frontier Tech Impact Awards.

**INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has secured India’s first Interpol Purple Notice (Aug 21, 2025) to alert 196 member nations on trade-based money laundering (TBML) through shell entities. Unlike Red Notices, Purple Notices focus on methods, devices, and concealment techniques. Interpol, headquartered in Lyon (1923), issues eight notice types and serves as a platform for global police cooperation. India’s initiative reflects its growing role in international financial crime prevention and policy leadership.

The 21st edition of Yudh Abhyas (Sept 1–14, 2025) between India and the US is being held at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Conducted annually, it enhances tactical, peacekeeping, and combat readiness skills. The 2025 exercise involves India’s Madras Regiment and the US Army’s 11th Airborne Division, featuring heliborne drills, drone surveillance, high-altitude warfare, and electronic warfare. Strengthening defence ties despite trade tensions, it builds on key pacts like LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA, and INDUS-X, reinforcing Indo-US strategic cooperation.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich visited India, signing a Bilateral Investment Agreement with his Indian counterpart, Nirmala Sitharaman. The agreement, which replaces a 1996 pact, aims to boost trade and facilitate reciprocal investments. This is a significant step for Israel, especially as it seeks to open new economic sectors to Indian workers. India is the first OECD member country to sign this type of agreement with Israel.

Two black MQ-28A Ghost Bat drones lifted off over Australia’s desert, symbolizing a defense shift. These 38-foot-long unmanned aircraft, designed as robotic wingmen, are part of a \$650 million partnership with Boeing. They mark the first military aircraft built in Australia in over 50 years. Facing rising regional threats, Australia is strengthening self-reliance by reviving its defense industry, which had weakened after the Cold War, moving away from total dependence on U.S. military supplies.

The UKIIFB, launched under the UK–India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), is a joint initiative of NITI Aayog and the City of London. It seeks to channel sustainable infrastructure investment into India by leveraging UK’s expertise in project structuring. A steering committee with government, financial, and industry stakeholders oversees bid-readiness for highways, transport, and renewable projects, aligning with SDGs to build a stable, long-term, eco-friendly financing system.

Former Chief Justice Sushila Karki took oath as Nepal’s first woman prime minister

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Fast Track Immigration–Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) at five airports—Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode, and Amritsar. The scheme enables preverified Indian nationals and OCI cardholders to clear immigration in just 30 seconds, avoiding queues and manual checks. First rolled out at Delhi in July 2024, it now covers major airports. With 3 lakh registrations, the programme will expand to 21 airports, aligning with PM Modi’s vision of “speed, scale, scope.”

Albania’s Prime Minister Edi Rama tapped an Artificial Intelligence-generated ‘minister’ for his cabinet to take on corruption. “The new State Minister is called Diella,” Rama said in a Facebook post. He said the bot would help ensure that “public tenders will be 100% free of corruption”.

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India, along with 141 nations, supported a UN General Assembly resolution endorsing the New York Declaration on resolving the Palestine issue via a two-state solution. The declaration, co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, urges Israel to recognize a sovereign Palestinian state, halt violence and settlements, renounce annexation, and respect Palestinian self-determination. India's vote reaffirms its commitment to peaceful coexistence between Israel and Palestine. The US, Israel, Hungary, and Argentina opposed the resolution.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a meeting with Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Varanasi, announced a special economic package, signing seven MoUs covering development projects like hospitals, highways, Chagos Marine Protected Area, and ATC tower at SSR Airport. India will strengthen Mauritius's EEZ security and maritime capacity. Highlighting deep historical and cultural ties, Modi emphasized the India-Mauritius "family" bond. Bilateral trade and FDI have grown significantly, and strategic cooperation supports India's SAGAR and MAHASAGAR policies in the Indian Ocean.

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a mutual defence agreement, declaring that aggression against one is aggression against both. Signed by PM Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, it marks Pakistan's most significant defence pact in decades, amid US retrenchment and regional tensions. Historically, Pakistan has aided Saudi Arabia militarily. The pact strengthens Saudi investments in Pakistan and its pan-Islamic role. India, a key Saudi trade partner, will study security implications while maintaining diplomatic engagement.

**MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

India was crowned champion of the SAFF under-17 women's football championship

Exercise Bright Star is a multilateral exercise hosted by Egypt in conjunction with the US since 1980 and is amongst the largest Tri-Service multilateral exercises in the region. The exercise is held biennially, with the last edition having taken place in 2023, which witnessed the participation of a host of nations including India along with troops

August 29 of every year is celebrated as India's National Sports Day. The day marks the birth anniversary of the legendary Major Dhyan Chand, widely regarded as the greatest field hockey player of all time. The theme of this year is 'Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main'

In her first competition since the Paris 2024 Olympics, Mirabai Chanu won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2025 in Ahmedabad. Competing in the 48kg category, she lifted a total of 193kg (84kg snatch + 109kg clean and jerk), setting new Commonwealth Championship records in all three disciplines. This victory also secured her a direct qualification for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games. Other Indian lifters, including Soumya Sunil Dalvi, Dharmajyoti Dewgharia, and Payal, also won gold medals.

Vrindavani Vastra, a 16th-century Assamese silk textile created under saint-reformer Srimanta Sankardeva, depicts Krishna's life scenes and holds immense spiritual-cultural value. After traveling through Tibet and British collectors, it is now housed in the British Museum. For the first time, the museum has agreed to loan it to Assam in 2027 for 18 months. The loan requires a world-class textile museum in Guwahati, sovereign guarantees, and joint coordination between Indian and British institutions.

The 67th Ramon Magsaysay Award—Asia's prestigious honour for selfless service—will be presented on 7 November 2025 in Manila. Making history, Educate Girls, founded by Safeena Husain, became the first Indian organisation to win the award, recognised for empowering out-of-school girls in rural India and challenging cultural stereotypes. Other awardees include Shaahina Ali (Maldives) and Flaviano Antonio L Villanueva (Philippines). Each recipient will receive a medallion, a citation certificate, and a cash prize.

India–USA Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025, scheduled from 1st to 14th September 2025

The Indian Army recently conducted Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0 in the high-altitude Kameng region of Arunachal Pradesh.

The 14th edition of the India - Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE-XIV was held at Joint Training Node (JTN), Umroi, Meghalaya

The Supreme Court directed State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) and DISCOMs to clear old regulatory assets within 4 years, settle new ones in 3 years, and cap them below 3% of Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR). Regulatory assets are deferred costs arising when tariffs don't match supply costs due to subsidy delays or fuel price hikes. While they initially stabilize tariffs, they later burden consumers and strain DISCOM finances. The Court stressed audits, recovery plans, cost-reflective tariffs, and timely subsidies.

India clinched the Hockey Asia Cup crown, dominating Korea with a decisive 4-1 victory. The win not only secured their fourth continental title but also a coveted spot in the upcoming 2026 World Cup. Early goals from Sukhjeet Singh and Dilpreet Singh set the tone, with Amit Rohidas adding another in the second half. While Korea managed a late consolation goal, India's speed and aggression proved too much, delighting the home crowd in Rajgir.

In a historic win, India's men's compound archery team clinched a gold medal at the World Championships in Gwangju, South Korea. Rishabh Yadav was a standout performer, earning a double medal haul with a silver in the mixed team event alongside Jyothi Surekha Vennam. The men's team's victory came as a great success, compensating for the women's team's disappointing pre-quarterfinal exit, which marked the end of their eight-year podium streak at the event.

Filmmaker Anuparna Roy won the Best Director award at the 82nd Venice International Film Festival for her debut film, Songs of Forgotten Trees. The film, presented by Anurag Kashyap, explores the life of an aspiring actor navigating a challenging city. Roy dedicated the award to women who have been "silenced, overlooked, or underestimated," hoping it would inspire more female voices in cinema. During her acceptance speech, she also made a powerful statement in support of Palestine, emphasizing that every child deserves peace and freedom.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has announced the inaugural "Sun Rise Festival" in Dong village, Anjaw district, the easternmost village in India that receives the first rays of the sun every day. The 5-day festival will take place from December 29 to January 2, aiming to boost tourism and showcase the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage

Iceland has retained its position as the world's most peaceful country according to the 2025 Global Peace Index (GPI) by the Institute for Economics & Peace. The GPI ranks 163 countries on safety, conflict, and militarisation. While global peacefulness declined and conflicts increased, Iceland leads, followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand, and Switzerland. Russia is ranked least peaceful. India is 115th, with Singapore, Japan, and Malaysia among Asia's most peaceful nations.

Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh, two top Indian Grandmasters, faced unexpected defeats in the fifth round of the FIDE Grand Swiss tournament. Praggnanandhaa was defeated by Germany's Matthias Bluebaum, while World Champion D. Gukesh was stunned by Abhimanyu Mishra, the world's youngest Grandmaster from the USA. Despite these losses, Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi secured a victory, and Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo maintained his lead in the tournament.

IIM Bangalore's full-time MBA program has improved its global ranking in the Financial Times Masters in Management (FT MiM) 2025 rankings, moving from 41st to 28th globally. It is now the only Indian B-school in the global top 30. This rise is attributed to improved alumni career progression, a 47% increase in weighted salaries, and significant gains in diversity, including more female faculty, students, and board members. The institute also saw an increase in international student intake.

The Ministry of Education celebrated International Literacy Day (ILD) 2025 on the theme "Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era" at New Delhi. Himachal Pradesh was declared the 5th fully literate State/UT after Tripura, Mizoram, Goa and Ladakh. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stressed literacy as empowerment and dignity, highlighting progress under ULLAS. Minister Jayant Chaudhary emphasized integrating digital, financial, and civic literacy, urging collective effort to achieve universal literacy across India.

For poet, singer, composer and filmmaker Bhupen Hazarika, whose centenary celebrations began on September 8 — exactly a year before he would have turned 100 — the Brahmaputra remained an enduring metaphor. So much so that his voice has often been equated with the river, next to which he grew up, lived and died.

Digvijay Divas was celebrated on September 11 to mark Swami Vivekananda's 1893 speech at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago. PM Narendra Modi hailed it as a watershed moment for India's global cultural presence. Vivekananda emphasized religious tolerance, inclusivity, and universal brotherhood, warning against sectarianism. He promoted unity in diversity, service to the poor, youth empowerment, and social upliftment. His teachings continue to inspire national integration, spiritual regeneration, and global humanism in addressing modern challenges.

Siddhant Poonja from Bengaluru finished second in the 38th U-13 National Chess Championship, which ended in Madgaon, Goa

Jagdeep S Chhokar (1943–2025), co-founder of the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), passed away at 81. An academic, lawyer, engineer, and birdwatcher, he championed electoral reforms for over two decades. Chhokar played a key role in mandating candidate affidavits, opposing electoral bonds, and pushing for EVM verification. Remembered as a crusader for clean elections, he inspired activists, colleagues, and students. His body was donated to Lady Hardinge Medical College, marking the end of a life devoted to democracy and integrity.

The Defence Minister flagged off 'Samudra Pradakshina', the world's first tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition, from Mumbai. Ten women officers from the Army, Navy, and Air Force will sail the indigenously-built IASV Triveni, a 50-foot yacht, on a nine-month voyage covering 26,000 nautical miles. The route crosses the Equator twice and rounds the Capes of Leeuwin, Horn, and Good Hope. The mission showcases nari shakti, armed forces' jointness, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and India's global vision.

UNICEF's Child Nutrition Report 2025 shows obesity has overtaken underweight as the main malnutrition form among children and adolescents. Globally, 20% of 5–19-year-olds are overweight, doubling since 2000, with 42% obese. South Asia and India have seen sharp rises: under-5 overweight prevalence in India grew 127% (2005–21), adolescent obesity 125%, and overweight 288%. India may have 27 million obese children by 2030. Urbanisation, ultraprocessed foods, and aggressive marketing are key drivers, requiring urgent policy action.

A study by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) reveals that 21% of Indian legislators (1,107 of 5,204) are from political families, indicating entrenched dynastic influence. Dynastic representation is higher among women (47%) than men (18%). Party-wise, Congress leads at 32%, BJP 17%, CPM 8%, while regional parties like NCP and YSR Congress show over 34%. States like Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Himachal show high dynastic prevalence, whereas Tamil Nadu and West Bengal report lower figures.

Indian boxers Jaismine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda won gold medals at the World Championships in Liverpool, marking India's most successful overseas campaign. Jaismine defeated Poland's Julia Szeremeta in the featherweight final, while Minakshi beat Kazakhstan's Nazym Kyzaiabay in the 48kg category. Nupur Sheoran and Pooja Rani also contributed, winning a silver and bronze respectively. This historic achievement adds them to an elite list of Indian world champions.

Meghana Sajjanar won her first World Cup medal, a bronze in the women's 10m air rifle, at the ISSF World Cup. This marked her first final in eight years, where she scored 230.0. China's Peng Xinlu won gold, setting a new world record. Esha Singh also secured a gold for India in the women's 10m air pistol. Overall, China led the medal tally with three golds, followed by Norway with two, while India finished fifth.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Gyan Bharatam International Conference in New Delhi, highlighting the digitisation of manuscripts to curb intellectual piracy. The event, coinciding with the 132nd anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Chicago address, marked the launch of the Rs 400-crore Gyan Bharatam Mission under the Ministry of Culture. The Mission replaces the 2003 National Manuscripts Mission, aiming for preservation, digitisation, research, and accessibility of manuscripts. The Gyan-Setu AI initiative was also launched for youth-led heritage innovation.

Indian chess star R. Vaishali has retained her FIDE Grand Swiss women's title in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, booking her place in the 2025 Candidates Tournament, the qualifier for the World Championship. The 24-year-old from Chennai, who stunned the field in 2023, sealed six wins in her campaign. With Vaishali joining Koneru Humpy

and Divya Deshmukh, at least three of the eight Candidates will be Indian, marking a major boost for women's chess in India.

On September 13, India commemorates the 77th anniversary of Operation Polo, the 1948 military action integrating Hyderabad into India. Hyderabad, India's largest princely state, was ruled by Nizam Mir Usman Ali, who sought independence despite a Hindu-majority population and agrarian unrest. Led by Major General J.N. Chaudhuri, the Indian Army subdued Hyderabad in four days, dissolving the Razakar militias. Military administration followed until 1949, paving the way for civilian rule and Hyderabad's first democratic elections in 1952.

Antim Panghal (53kg) won bronze at the World Wrestling Championships in Zagreb, defeating Sweden's Emma Jonna Malmgren 9-1, securing India's first medal in this edition. At 21, she joined Vinesh Phogat as World Championships bronze medallists. Priya Malik (76kg) lost her bronze bout, while Aman (77kg) advanced to repechage. Anil Mor (55kg), Rahul (82kg), and Sonu (130kg) exited early. Antim's medal redeems her Paris Olympics performance and boosts India's presence in international wrestling.

The Indian Army is bolstering its air defence (AD) network along northern and western borders after Pakistani drone intrusions during Operation Sindoor. With modern warfare dominated by UAVs and low-RCS threats, the Army plans to procure advanced radars, including Low Level Light Weight Radars (LLLRs) and Drone Detectors, integrated with Akash and S-400 systems. Additionally, 19 drone training centers will ensure all soldiers are drone-trained by 2027, reflecting a shift toward AI-enabled, networked, drone-centric warfare.

India has nominated Sarnath, near Varanasi, for the UNESCO World Heritage List (2025–26), ending its 27-year wait on the tentative list. The ASI will revise plaques to credit Babu Jagat Singh (1787–88) for Sarnath's rediscovery, correcting colonial-era misattributions. As the site of Buddha's first sermon (Dharmachakrapravartana), Sarnath holds immense Buddhist and cultural significance, with stupas, relics, and monuments. The move aligns with India's global positioning as the "Land of Buddha" and its protection of Buddhist heritage.

Ace Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj dazzled on the opening day of the 11th Asian aquatics championships, clinching the 200m freestyle and 50m backstroke silver to become the first Indian swimmer to win two continental medals in a single edition,

Rinku Singh won the javelin throw F46 gold at the World Para Athletics Championships with a throw of 66.37m, setting a new championship record and finishing ahead of compatriot Sundar Singh Gurjar, who recorded 64.36m, while Cuba's Guillermo Gonzalez took third place. Australian James Turner continued his dominance in the 400m T36 category, winning his fourth gold and fifth medal in 52.18 seconds. Denis Gnezdilov, competing as a Neutral Para Athlete due to Russia's ban, set a world record in the shot put F40 with 11.92m. Among women, Poland's Faustyna Kotlowska won the discus throw F64 with 38.96m, maintaining her world record.