

I. National News

A. Key Political and Governance Updates

- **Vice President Election: CP Radhakrishnan** was elected as India's 15th Vice President on September 9, 2025. He secured 452 first preference votes against opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy (300 votes). He previously served as Tamil Nadu BJP president and Maharashtra Governor.
- **Literacy Rate:** India's literacy rate increased to **80.9%** in 2023-24, up from 74% in 2011.
- **Great Nicobar Project:** A ₹72,000 crore plan was unveiled to develop a strategic maritime and aviation hub.
- **Silver Hallmarking:** HUID-based silver hallmarking was introduced from September 1, 2025, adhering to a new BIS standard.
- **Inaugurations:** India's first **AI Command Centre** was inaugurated at Tirumala for pilgrim management. India's first tempered glass facility was inaugurated in Noida (Optiemus & Corning).

B. GST Rate Cuts 2025

- The government announced major GST rate cuts to increase affordability.
- **Daily Essentials** (e.g., Hair Oil, Shampoo, Butter, Namkeens) saw rates reduced significantly from 18% or 12% down to 5%.
- **Agriculture:** Items like Tractor Tyres, Tractors, and Drip Irrigation Systems reduced from 18%/12% to 5%.
- **Healthcare:** Individual Health & Life Insurance reduced from 18% to **Nil**. Medical Grade Oxygen and diagnostic kits reduced to 5%.
- **Automobiles:** Petrol, Diesel, 3-Wheeled Vehicles, and Motorcycles (350 CC & below) saw rates drop from 28% to **18%**.
- **Education:** Maps, Pencils, and Notebooks reduced from 12% to **Nil**.

C. Cabinet Approvals (Infrastructure & Social)

- **Critical Mineral Recycling Scheme (NCMM):** Approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme (FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31) to promote recycling of e-waste and Li-ion batteries. Aims to create 270 KT annual recycling capacity.
- **Health Infrastructure:** Approved Phase-III CSS to add 5,000 PG seats and 5,023 MBBS seats, costing ₹15,034.50 crore.
- **Railway Projects (Doubling):** Approved the doubling of the Bhagalpur–Dumka–Rampurhat line (177 km) at ₹3,169 crore and the Bakhtiyarpur–Rajgir–Tilaiya section (104 km) at ₹2,192 crore.
- **High-Speed Corridors (Bihar):** Approved the Mokama–Munger 4-lane greenfield highway (82.4 km) at ₹4,447.38 crore and the Sahebganj–Areraj–Bettiah section of NH-139W at ₹3,822.31 crore, reducing travel time significantly.
- **Railway Bonus:** Approved a Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages (₹1,865.68 crore) for 10.91 lakh non-gazetted railway employees.

II. Government Schemes

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- **CBHRD Scheme (DSIR/CSIR):** ₹2,277.397 crore outlay (2021–26) for Capacity Building and Human Resource Development, focusing on supporting young researchers in STEMM fields.
- **Make in India:** Completed 11 years since its 2014 launch, boosting FDI and manufacturing.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:** Aims to double fishers' income and boost fisheries production to 195 lakh tonnes.
- **State Schemes:** Tamil Nadu launched the '**Anbu Karangal**' scheme for orphaned children. Bihar approved the **Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana** (and Bihar Women Empowerment Scheme) providing ₹10,000 cash transfer to 75 lakh women.

III. International Affairs

- **Nepal Political Shift:** PM KP Sharma Oli resigned on September 9, 2025, after violent Gen Z protests over a social media ban. **Sushila Karki**, Nepal's first female Chief Justice, was appointed as the country's first woman Prime Minister and interim leader (Sept 12, 2025).
- **India-EFTA FTA:** The Free Trade Agreement with EFTA countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) will be operational from **October 1, 2025**, and includes legally binding sustainability clauses.
- **India-Bhutan Connectivity:** Approved historic rail projects worth ₹4,033 crore (Kokrajhar-Gelephu and Banarhat-Samtse lines) to enhance trade.
- **SCO Summit (Tianjin):** PM Modi highlighted three pillars: Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity. The Tianjin Declaration condemned the Pahalgam terror attack.
- **India-Japan:** Signed the Joint Credit Mechanism (JCM) under the Paris Agreement to enable carbon credit trading and mobilize ¥10 trillion (approx. ₹5.5 lakh crore) in green investments.
- **BBNJ Treaty:** The Historic Ocean Conservation Treaty (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) reached 60 ratifications and will enter force on January 17, 2026.

IV. Awards and Recognition

A. Ramon Magsaysay Award 2025

- **Winner: Educate Girls**, which became the first Indian organisation to win the award.
- **Recognition:** Honoured for addressing cultural stereotyping and liberating girls through education.
- **Innovation:** The NGO pioneered the world's first Development Impact Bond in education in 2015.

B. National Film Awards (71st)

- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award:** Presented to Malayalam superstar **Mohanlal**.
- **Best Film:** *12th Fail*.
- **Best Actor (Leading Role):** **Shah Rukh Khan** (*Jawan*) and **Vikrant Massey** (*12th Fail*).
- **Best Director:** **Sudipto Sen** (*The Kerala Story*).
- **Best Popular Film:** *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*.

C. Sports Awards

- **Asia Cup 2025:** India won its 9th title, defeating Pakistan in the final (150 for 5, chasing 147). Man of the Match: **Tilak Verma**.

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- **Ballon d'Or 2025:** Men's winner: **Ousmane Dembélé** (PSG/France). Women's winner: **Aitana Bonmatí** (Barcelona/Spain), her third consecutive win.
- **Emmy Awards 2025 (77th):** Major winners included Drama Series: **Severance**, Comedy Series: **The Studio**, and Limited Series: **Adolescence**.

V. Banking & Finance

- **RBI Regulatory Changes:** RBI mandated **Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)** for all digital payments starting **April 1, 2026**. Banks are now permitted to provide working capital loans to manufacturers using gold as raw material (effective Oct 1, 2025).
- **FDI in Insurance:** Government proposes increasing the FDI limit in the insurance sector from 74% to **100%** via the automatic route.
- **UPI Limits:** NPCI increased the UPI P2M limit to **₹10 lakh daily** for select verified merchants in capital markets, insurance, and government sectors.
- **SEBI Update:** Introduced the **SWAGAT-FI portal** to simplify the onboarding of long-term foreign investors using digital KYC.
- **Forecasts:** RBI projected private corporate capital expenditure (capex) to rise by **21.5%** in FY26 (to ₹2.67 lakh crore).

VI. Economy & Business

- **Economic Growth:** India is poised to become the world's 3rd largest economy. Morgan Stanley upgraded India's FY26 GDP forecast to 6.7%, while S&P retained it at 6.5%.
- **GST Collection:** GST revenue reached **₹1.86 trillion** in August 2025, a 6.5% YoY increase.
- **Logistics Costs:** A NCAER report assessed India's logistics costs at **7.97% of GDP**.
- **Appointments (Business):** **Harshavardhan Chitale** was named CEO of Hero MotoCorp, effective January 5, 2026.

VII. Appointments & Resignations

- **CP Radhakrishnan:** 15th Vice President of India.
- **T.C.A. Kalyani:** 29th Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- **Shirish Chandra Murmu:** Deputy Governor of RBI, effective October 9, 2025.
- **Rajit Punhani:** CEO of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- **Dr. Kanad Das:** 13th Director of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).
- **Gaurav Banerjee:** MD & CEO of Sony Pictures Networks India (Culver Max Entertainment) for a five-year term.

VIII. Defence

- **Joint Exercises:** India and the US participated in the **21st edition of Yudh Abhyas 2025** in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, focusing on arctic warfare. **MAITREE-XIV** exercise was held with the Royal Thai Army in Meghalaya.
- **Indigenous Technology:** **Agni-Prime Missile Test** was successful from a rail-based mobile launcher (range 2,000 km). **INS Androth** (ASW craft) was delivered to the Navy with over 80% indigenous content.

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- **Retirement:** The IAF's iconic fighter jet, the **MiG-21**, was retired on September 24.
- **BSF Command Centre:** BSF launched an AI and GIS-based Decision Support System to strengthen border security.

IX. Science & Technology

- **Space & AI:** ISRO is set to launch the AI robot **Vyommitra** on the uncrewed Gaganyaan mission. India unveiled **Vikram-3201**, its first indigenously developed 32-bit microprocessor for space use.
- **ISRO Technology Transfer:** ISRO transferred the SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle) technology to HAL, marking its 100th tech transfer.
- **Biodiversity:** A new finless snake eel species, ***Apterichtus kanniyakumari***, was discovered off the Tamil Nadu coast. The rare dragonfly, ***Crocothemis erythraea***, was rediscovered in the Western Ghats.
- **R&D Funding:** Cabinet approved the DSIR/CSIR scheme on Capacity Building and Human Resource Development with a ₹2,277.397 crore outlay for 2021-26.

X. Summits, Events & Conference

- **Semicon India 2025:** Held in New Delhi, inaugurating projects worth ₹1.5 lakh crore to showcase India's semiconductor ambitions.
- **World Food India 2025:** Attracted ₹1 lakh crore investments from 26 companies in the food processing sector.
- **AI Impact Summit 2026:** India is scheduled to host this summit.

XI. Indices and Rankings

- **Bloomberg Billionaires Index (Sept 2025):** **Larry Ellison** briefly surpassed **Elon Musk** as the world's richest person following a record \$89 billion single-day wealth gain. Elon Musk quickly reclaimed the #1 spot (\$384B). Mukesh Ambani ranked #18 (\$97.9B) and Gautam Adani #21 (\$80.9B).
- **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025:** India ranked **38th** globally (up from 48th in 2020) and ranked #1 among lower-middle-income economies.
- **NIRF Rankings 2025 (10th Edition):** **IIT-Madras** retained the top spot overall for the 7th consecutive year.
- **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025:** India ranked **115th** globally. Iceland ranked #1.

XII. Sports

- **Cricket:** India won the **9th Asia Cup title** by defeating Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium. **Smriti Mandhana** set a new record with a 50-ball ODI century against Australia.
- **Hockey:** India won the **4th Asia Cup Hockey Title** after defeating South Korea 4–1.
- **Badminton:** India is scheduled to Host the **2026 Badminton World Championships** in New Delhi.

XIII. Books & Authors

- ***The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath***: Second book in the Indic Chronicles series by **Amish Tripathi**.
- ***Why the Constitution Matters***: Published work by Former CJI **DY Chandrachud**.

XIV. Obituary

- **Giorgio Armani:** Legendary Italian fashion designer passed away at 91.
- **Sarada Hoffman:** Foundational Kalakshetra Bharatanatyam guru passed away at 96.
- **Dr. S. L. Bhyrappa:** Renowned Kannada novelist and Padma Bhushan recipient died at 94.

XV. Important Days

- **Sept 15 (Engineers' Day):** Theme: "Deep Tech & Engineering Excellence: Driving India's Techade".
- **Sept 16 (World Ozone Day):** Marks 40 years of the Vienna Convention & Montreal Protocol success.
- **Sept 23 (Ayurveda Day):** Celebrated for the first time on the autumnal equinox with the theme: "Ayurveda for People and Planet".
- **Sept 10 (World Suicide Prevention Day):** Theme: "Changing the Narrative on Suicide".