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31 OCTOBER 2025

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DAILY

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Piyush Goyal announces ₹1 lakh crore Anusandhan Fund at TiEcon Delhi-NCR 2025



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, speaking at TiEcon Delhi-NCR 2025, announced a ₹1 lakh crore (approx \$12 billion) Anusandhan Fund. This fund, implemented via the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), aims to boost transformative research, innovation, and industrial growth in India's deep tech sector.

- The theme of TiEcon Delhi-NCR 2025 was "India's Deep Tech Moment: From Digital Leadership to Technological Sovereignty."
- Goyal emphasized reduced reliance on foreign tech and promoting home-grown innovation.
- A Startup Fund of Funds (Second Edition) was also announced.

Key Points:-

The fund will focus on key areas like AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, and defence.

The goal is to move India from 'Digital Leadership to Technological Sovereignty'.

Goyal also encouraged academia-industry collaboration to build a robust deep tech

ecosystem.

2. CBSE Class 10 and 12 board exams to begin from February 17, 2026

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced on October 31, 2025, that the board examinations for Class 10 and 12 will commence on February 17, 2026. The exams are scheduled to conclude on April 9, 2026. The board stated this schedule allows sufficient time for evaluation and timely results before college admissions.

- The exams will be conducted in a single-term format.
- The detailed date sheet is expected to be released in December 2025.

Key Points:-

The announcement was made to help students plan their academic preparations well in advance.

CBSE has returned to the traditional annual examination format.

The board aims to declare results by mid-May 2026.

3. Uttar Pradesh government announces formation of new district 'Kalyan Singh Nagar'



The Uttar Pradesh government announced the formation of a new district, Kalyan Singh Nagar, on October 31, 2025. This new district, the 76th in the state, is being created in memory of former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh. Key tehsils like Atrauli, Gangiri, and Dibai will be included in the new district.

- Kalyan Singh Nagar will be the 76th district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The district is named as a tribute to Kalyan Singh, a prominent leader and former CM of UP.

Key Points:-

The new district will be carved out of existing districts, including parts of Aligarh and Bulandshahr.

Kalyan Singh served twice as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

The formation aims to improve administration and development in the region.

4. Severe Cyclonic Storm 'Montha' crosses Andhra Pradesh coast



The Severe Cyclonic Storm 'Montha' made landfall and crossed the coast of Andhra Pradesh on October 31, 2025. The cyclone brought extremely heavy rainfall and strong winds to the coastal districts, leading to widespread disruption and damage. After landfall, the storm weakened into a Cyclonic Storm.

- The name 'Montha' was given by Thailand.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued red alerts for several coastal districts.
- Rescue and relief operations are underway, led by NDRF teams.

Key Points:-

The storm caused significant damage to infrastructure and agriculture in the affected regions.

The government has announced financial aid for the affected families.

The name 'Montha' (meaning 'Pearl') was contributed by Thailand to the list of cyclone names.

5. NDA releases 'Sankalp Patra' manifesto for Bihar Assembly Elections 2025



The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) released its manifesto, named 'Sankalp Patra', for the ongoing Bihar Assembly Elections 2025. The manifesto was released in Patna by BJP President J.P. Nadda, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, and other alliance partners. It focuses on youth employment, women's empowerment, and farmer welfare.

- Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary promised free education from 'KG to PG' (Kindergarten to Post-Graduation) if NDA returns to power.
- The manifesto was released in the presence of leaders from BJP, JDU, LJP(RV), and HAM(S).

Key Points:-

The manifesto includes promises for job creation and strengthening infrastructure.

It also outlines plans for improving healthcare facilities across the state.

The Bihar Assembly Elections 2025 are being held in multiple phases.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Timor-Leste officially becomes the 11th member of ASEAN



Timor-Leste (East Timor) officially joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as its 11th member on October 31, 2025. This marks the bloc's first enlargement since 1999. The accession was finalized during the 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, after a 14-year negotiation process.

- ASEAN leaders had agreed in principle to admit Timor-Leste in 2022.
- France, among other nations, congratulated Timor-Leste on its membership.

Key Points:-

This is ASEAN's first enlargement in over two decades, since Cambodia joined in 1999.

The 47th ASEAN Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Timor-Leste's membership is expected to strengthen the association's central role and regional economic growth.

2. US and Singapore lead FDI inflows: RBI FLA Census 2024-25



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its latest census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA) 2024-25. According to the data, the United States (20%) and Singapore (14.3%) together contributed over one-third of India's total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, maintaining their positions as the top source countries.

- Total FDI inflows into India grew by 11% year-on-year, reaching ₹68.76 lakh crore.
- The manufacturing sector was the largest recipient, accounting for 48.4% of total equity inflows.

Key Points:-

The census data reflects strong global investor confidence in the Indian economy.

Outward Direct Investment (ODI) from India also grew by 17.9% to ₹11.67 lakh crore.

The FLA census is an annual exercise conducted by the RBI to capture financial data of Indian entities with foreign assets or liabilities.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. ADB approves \$460 million loan for agricultural solarization in India



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$460 million loan to support India's agricultural solarization and promote clean energy. An additional \$40 million will be provided by the Clean Technology Fund (CTF). The project aims to benefit around 9 lakh agricultural consumers (farmers) by installing solar power systems.

- The project is expected to be completed by 2028.
- The initiative is projected to reduce carbon emissions by over 3 million tons annually.

Key Points:-

The loan will help in reducing the subsidy burden on electricity distribution companies.

It promotes the use of renewable energy in the agricultural sector, aligning with India's climate goals.

The Clean Technology Fund (CTF) provides concessional financing for clean energy projects.

MOUs and Agreement

1. BPCL and OIL collaborate to build Greenfield Refinery in Andhra Pradesh



Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Oil India Ltd (OIL), both Maharatna PSUs, have announced a collaboration to build a massive Greenfield Refinery. The refinery, with an investment of ₹1 Lakh Crore, will be located at Ramayapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh. It will also include a 1.5 MTPA Ethylene Cracker Unit.

- This project is a significant boost to India's refining capacity and energy security.
- The total investment for the project is estimated at ₹1 Lakh Crore.
- Ramayapatnam Port location provides strategic access for crude imports and product exports.

Key Points:-

The project includes a 1.5 MTPA Ethylene Cracker Unit, vital for petrochemical production.

This collaboration highlights synergy between two major state-owned oil companies.

The refinery will contribute significantly to the economic development of Andhra Pradesh.

2. India and US sign landmark 10-year defence framework pact



India and the United States signed a landmark 10-year defence framework agreement on October 31, 2025, to guide strategic collaboration and cooperation across the defence spectrum. The agreement was signed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, signaling a growing strategic convergence between the two nations.

- The pact aims to enhance coordination, information sharing, and technological cooperation.
- This framework is seen as a cornerstone for regional stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.

Key Points:-

The agreement is described as a 'signal of growing strategic convergence' between the two democracies.

It will guide cooperation in areas like defence industry collaboration and joint research.

The meeting took place in New Delhi during the US Defence Secretary's visit.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Namitbir Singh Walia becomes Punjab's second International Master



Jalandhar's Namitbir Singh Walia has earned the prestigious International Master (IM) title in chess. He achieved this feat at the 3rd Annemasse International Masters Tournament in France, securing his final IM norm. He is only the second player from Punjab to achieve this title, following Dushyant Sharma (2022).

- The title is awarded by FIDE (International Chess Federation).
- Walia is currently pursuing B.Com at SRCC, Delhi.
- His next goal is to achieve the Grandmaster (GM) title.

Key Points:-

He secured his final IM norm at the 3rd Annemasse International Masters Tournament in France.

He is the second player from Punjab to become an IM.

The first IM from Punjab was Dushyant Sharma, who achieved the title in 2022.

2. Former cricketer Md. Azharuddin sworn in as Telangana Minister



Former Indian cricket captain Mohammed Azharuddin was sworn in as a Minister in the Telangana Cabinet on October 31, 2025. Governor Jishnu Dev Varma administered the oath of office and secrecy at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad. Azharuddin is a Congress leader and represents an assembly constituency in the state.

- This is Azharuddin's first time serving as a state minister.
- He previously served as a Member of Parliament (MP) from Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points:-

The oath-taking ceremony was held at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad.

The portfolio allocation for the new minister is expected to be announced soon.

Azharuddin played 99 Test matches and 334 ODIs for India.

3. Justice Surya Kant appointed as 53rd Chief Justice of India



Justice Surya Kant has been appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI). He will take oath on November 24, 2025, succeeding Justice D.Y. Chandrachud. Justice Kant is known for his strong views on judicial reforms and will have a tenure until February 9, 2027.

- The appointment was approved by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, following the recommendation of the outgoing CJI.
- Justice Kant will succeed Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, who served as the 52nd CJI.

Key Points:-

Justice Kant's tenure as CJI will last until February 9, 2027.

He is the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court after the outgoing CJI.

The appointment follows the principle of seniority for the post of CJI.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

1. NATO and Japan hold first dialogue on Defence Industrial Cooperation



The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Japan held their first dedicated staff-to-staff dialogue on defence industrial cooperation and capabilities on October 31, 2025. The meeting took place at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, focusing on strengthening practical coordination and defence industrial ties amid a challenging security environment.

- The dialogue focused on priorities like Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), counter-UAS, and supply chain security.
- This move follows a statement by NATO and its four Indo-Pacific partners (Australia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand) at The Hague summit.

Key Points:-

The dialogue was opened by NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Industry, Tarja Jaakkola.

Discussions also supported Japan's potential future engagement in NATO's multinational projects.

NATO is increasing cooperation with its Indo-Pacific partners to address shared security challenges.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. India celebrates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2025



India observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) on October 31, 2025, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes at the 'Statue of Unity' in Kevadia, Gujarat, and administered the 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' pledge, reaffirming the nation's commitment to unity and integrity.

- This year marks the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, the first Home Minister of India.
- The day was first introduced by the Government of India in 2014.

Key Points:-

Prime Minister Modi paid floral tributes at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat.

Events like 'Run for Unity' are organized across the country to promote national integration.

The 'Statue of Unity', dedicated to Sardar Patel, is the world's tallest statue.

DEFENCE

1. Tri-services 'Exercise Trishul' begins on the Western Front



A major tri-services military exercise, 'Exercise Trishul', commenced on the Western Front (bordering Pakistan) on October 30, 2025. The exercise, involving the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, will run until November 10. It aims to test joint combat readiness and interoperability between the three services.

- The exercise is being held in the regions of Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- Around 20,000 troops, along with fighter jets like Rafale & Sukhoi-30, T-90 tanks, and Navy frigates are participating.
- The exercise will be conducted in three phases, led by each service.

Key Points:-

This exercise is crucial for strengthening India's integrated command capabilities.

It tests the synergy and joint operational procedures of the armed forces in a multi-domain warfare scenario.

The Western Front covers the border areas with Pakistan.

Static GK

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)	(i) The ANRF Act was passed by Parliament in 2023 (ii) It aims to seed, grow, and promote research and development (R&D) in India (iii) It will be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
ASEAN	(i) Full Form: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ii) Established: 8 August 1967 (Bangkok Declaration) (iii) Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia (iv) Founding Members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand.
NATO	(i) Full Form: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (ii) Established: 4 April 1949 (Washington Treaty) (iii) Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium (iv) Members: 32 (as of Oct 2025).
FIDE Titles	(i) FIDE: International Chess Federation (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) (ii) Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland (iii) Highest title: Grandmaster (GM) (iv) Other titles include International Master (IM), FIDE Master (FM), and Candidate Master (CM).

CBSE	(i) Full Form: Central Board of Secondary Education (ii) Headquarters: New Delhi (iii) Functions under: Ministry of Education, Govt. of India (iv) It is the national level board of education for public and private schools.
Uttar Pradesh (UP)	(i) Capital: Lucknow (ii) Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath (as of Oct 2025) (iii) Governor: Anandiben Patel (as of Oct 2025) (iv) UP is the most populous state in India.
BPCL & OIL	(i) BPCL: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Headquarters: Mumbai (ii) OIL: Oil India Limited, Headquarters: Duliajan, Assam (iii) Both are Maharatna Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
Tri-Services Command	(i) India's first and only tri-service command is the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), established in 2001 (ii) The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) post was created to enhance jointness (iii) Current CDS: Gen Anil Chauhan (as of Oct 2025).
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	(i) Known as the 'Iron Man of India' (ii) First Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India (iii) Played

	a key role in the integration of over 560 princely states into the Indian Union.	
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	(i) Established: 19 December 1966 (ii) Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines (iii) President: Masatsugu Asakawa (as of Oct 2025) (iv) Members: 68 countries (49 from Asia-Pacific).	
Cyclones in Bay of Bengal	(i) Cyclones in this region are typically formed during the pre-monsoon (April-May) and post-monsoon (October-December) seasons (ii) Naming is done by Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMCs), including IMD.	
India-US Defence Relations	(i) Key foundational agreements: LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA (ii) Major Defence Partner status granted to India by US (iii) Regular joint exercises: Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar, Malabar (with Japan & Australia).	
Bihar	(i) Capital: Patna (ii) Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar (as of Oct 2025) (iii) Governor: Rajendra Arlekar (as of Oct 2025) (iv) The state is currently undergoing	

	Assembly Elections.	
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	(i) Established: 1 April 1935 (on the recommendation of the Hilton Young Commission) (ii) Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra (iii) Current Governor: Shaktikanta Das (iv) Nationalised: 1 January 1949.	
Telangana	(i) Capital: Hyderabad (ii) Formed: 2 June 2014 (India's 29th state, now 28th) (iii) Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma (as of Oct 2025) (iv) Chief Minister: Revanth Reddy (as of Oct 2025).	
the Chief Justice of India (CJI)	(i) Appointed by the President of India under Article 124(2) of the Constitution (ii) The CJI is the head of the Supreme Court of India (iii) Administers oath to the President of India.	