



# Daily Current Affairs

14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026



**BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS**

**India's Gold Exchange Traded Funds Holdings Rise 65% to 95 Tonnes, Becomes 6th Largest Globally**

- **Domestic gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) in India** saw their holdings jump **65% to 95 tonnes in 2025**, making India the **6th largest holder** of gold ETFs globally, up from **8th place in 2024**.
- According to the **World Gold Council (WGC)**, India's gold ETF holdings were **57.5 tonnes in 2024**, showing a sharp rise in investor participation.
- India ranked **third globally** in **gold ETF inflows** during **2025**, with net investments of **USD 4.37 billion**.
- **Net inflows** into Indian gold ETFs reached **\$4.4 billion in 2025**, more than three times the **\$1.3 billion in 2024**, making India the **third-largest gold ETF market** after the **US (\$50 billion)** and **China (\$15.5 billion)**.
- **Nippon India ETF Gold BeES**, India's largest gold ETF, ranked among the **top 15 gold ETFs globally** in terms of **net inflows**, attracting **\$1.17 billion** during **2025**.
- **Nippon India ETF Gold BeES** also led **domestic gold ETF inflows** by a wide margin, strengthening its leadership in India's expanding **gold ETF market**.
- The **gold ETF boom** in India was driven by a more than **60% rise in gold prices in 2025**, fuelled by **global uncertainty**, a **weaker US dollar**, and a strong investor preference for **regulated precious metal investments**.
- **Globally**, gold ETFs recorded **net inflows of \$88.5 billion in 2025**, highlighting rising global demand for **gold-backed ETFs**.

**Gold holding of domestic ETFs surges to 6th highest globally**

**Shining bright**  
India ETF gold holding nears 100 tonnes

Country	Net inflows in 2025 (\$ bn)	Holdings* (tonnes)
US	68.82	2020
UK	3.78	622
Switzerland	4.34	305
Germany	0.86	324
China (mainland)	15.47	248
India	4.37	95
France	2.29	85
Canada	0.83	76
Japan	3.10	46

\*As of December 31, 2025. Source: World Gold Council

Domestic gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) saw their holdings jump 65% to 95 tonnes in 2025, elevating India's ETFs to sixth place globally, up from eighth in 2024. At the end of 2024, they ranked eighth with 57.5 tonnes of holdings, according to an analysis of data from the World Gold Council (WGC).

In terms of net inflows, India remains the third-largest ETF market last year. WGC estimates that net inflows into Indian gold ETFs at a global level were 4.4 times compared to the \$1.3 billion inflows in 2024. "The US and China continue to lead in terms of net inflows of \$68.8 billion and \$15.5 billion respectively," it adds.

"Globally, gold ETFs witnessed a 60% increase in net inflows during the year from \$4.6 billion to \$8.5 billion. This reflects growing acceptance of ETFs as a preferred investment route for precious metals."

"Gold ETFs attracted an all-time high inflow of about \$1.17 billion in December, while silver ETF inflows were also double-digit growth, more than double the amount of inflows in the previous month."

"Investor participation also widened, with gold ETF inflows rising sharply and silver ETF inflows expanding multiple times during the year. This reflects growing acceptance of ETFs as a preferred investment route for precious metals."

"The sharp rise in investor interest came amid a steady rally in gold prices. This performance has been supported by a combination of heightened geopolitical and economic uncertainty, a weaker US dollar, and positive price momentum."

**India's Retail Inflation Slows to 1.33% in December, Stays Below RBI's Tolerance Band**

- India's retail inflation (CPI) eased to **1.33% in December 2025**, marking the **lowest level in three months** and remaining well below the **RBI's tolerance band**.
- The decline in inflation was mainly due to a **sharp fall in food prices**, especially **vegetables, fruits, eggs, spices, and pulses**.
- **Rural inflation** stood at **1.44%**, while **urban inflation** was **2.26%**, both remaining under control.
- Despite the rise in certain items, overall inflation remains well below the **RBI's tolerance band of 2–6%**, keeping **price pressures** under control.
- **Retail inflation**, also known as **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation**, measures the change in **retail prices of goods and services** that households purchase for **daily consumption**.
- **CPI** is calculated using a **base year**, which serves as a **benchmark** for comparison; the current **base year is 2012**.

**Retail inflation at 3-month high of 1.33% in December**

Increased figure still below RBI's lower comfort level of 2%; data show broad-based decline in price levels across sectors as reason for low figure; core inflation at 28-month high of 4.8%, says expert

**Quicken again**  
The short-term retail price inflation (in %), measured by the Consumer Price Index, from December 2024 to December 2025

**Core inflation at 3-month high of 4.8%**  
The short-term core inflation (in %), measured by the Consumer Price Index, from December 2024 to December 2025

**Food and beverages category saw a contraction**  
The food and beverages category saw a contraction of 0.18% in prices in December 2025, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. This is the lowest level of retail inflation since the RBI targets an inflation rate of 4% with a comfort band of 2% above and below that.

**Services inflation**  
Services inflation was 2.26% in December 2025, a moderation from the contraction of 2.2% seen in November. This is likely due to a high base effect on inflation in the category as well as a broad-based decline in price levels across sectors.

**Overall inflation**  
The RBI targets an inflation rate of 4% with a comfort band of 2% above and below that.

**Core inflation**  
Core inflation (CPI excluding food and beverages, fuel and light, and petrol and diesel) rose to 4.8% in December 2025, up from 4.5% in November 2025. Add. House, chief economist and head, research & outreach at ICAI, said, "However, this was largely led by the previous month's 4.8% increase in the category."

**NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS**

**Chhattisgarh Leads Large States in APAAR ID Generation (January 2026)**

- **Chhattisgarh** has emerged as the **top-performing large state** in generating **APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) IDs**, achieving around **88.63% coverage** of enrolled students as of early **January 2026**.

- The state has created **50,60,941 APAAR IDs** out of **57,10,207 enrolled students** across **57,045 schools**, reflecting strong execution and administrative coordination.
- **APAAR ID** is a **permanent digital academic identity** enabling secure storage of **certificates, credits, achievements and academic records**, ensuring **academic continuity**, supporting **nationwide mobility**, reducing paperwork and strengthening **education governance** under India's digital education reforms.
- The initiative aligns with the national push towards **Digital Public Infrastructure in Education**, enhancing transparency and student-centric service delivery.
- **Bemetara** recorded the **highest coverage at 96.40%**, followed by **Rajnandgaon (96.38%)**, while districts like **Raigarh, Korea, Raipur, Korba, Dhamtari, Durg and Balodabazar** have crossed **93% coverage**; most districts have achieved over **80%**, except a few like **Narayanpur, Bijapur, Sukma, Balrampur and Dantewada**.
- The state government implemented a **mission-mode strategy** involving continuous monitoring, district-level targets and coordinated efforts by teachers, district administration and education departments to ensure inclusion of maximum students.
- The **Central Government** has set the **national deadline of January 31, 2026** for APAAR ID completion, and Chhattisgarh is on track with **time-bound efforts** to achieve full coverage.

Chhattisgarh has taken a lead among other larger states in implementing the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) system by generating 50,60,941 IDs for students as of January 7.

This is 88.63 per cent coverage out of the 57,10,207 students in 57,045 schools across the state, representing the state's big leap towards digital education infrastructure.

With this, Chhattisgarh has emerged as a leading state among the country's bigger states in generating the IDs, a permanent and secure digital academic identity for students, a state government spokesperson said.

At the district level, Bemetara has recorded the highest coverage with 96.40 per cent of students getting their APAAR IDs, followed closely by Rajnandgaon at 96.38 per cent. In addition, districts such as Raigarh, Korea, Raipur, Korba, Dhamtari, Durg and Balodabazar have completed APAAR ID creation for over 93 per cent of their students. Except for Narayanpur, Bijapur, Sukma,

#### About Chhattisgarh:

- Chief Minister: Vishnu Deo Sai
- Governor: Ramen Deka
- Capital: Raipur
- National Parks: Indravati National Park, Kanger Valley National Park, Guru Ghasidas (Sanjay) National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Badakhhol Wildlife Sanctuary, Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary, Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary

### 25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26 Concludes at Paradip Port

- The **25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26** concluded at **Jayadev Sadan, Paradip Port**, after four days of cultural performances.
- The event was **organized by Paradip Port Authority (PPA)** in association with the **Major Ports Sports Control Board**.
- Around **200 artistes** from **9 major ports** participated, showcasing talent in **music, dance, drama and other cultural disciplines**.
- The valedictory ceremony was attended by **P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority**, as **Chief Guest**.
- **Mumbai Port Authority** secured the **Runners-up position**, while **Deendayal Port Authority** and **Cochin Port Authority** were declared **Joint Second Runners-up**.
- The programme was presided over by **H. S. Rout**, Chairman of the Cultural Organising Committee, with senior PPA officials including **A. K. Bose, Ashoka Kumar Sahu and D. P. Sethi** present.
- The meet aimed to **promote unity, cultural integration, harmony and camaraderie** among employees of India's major ports, strengthening bonds within the **maritime fraternity**.

#### 25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26 draws to a Grand Conclusion at Paradip Port

Posted On: 12 JAN 2026 1:49PM by PIB Delhi

The 25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26, held at Jayadev Sadan, Paradip Port, concluded on 11th January evening after four days of vibrant and captivating cultural celebrations. The event was successfully organized by Paradip Port Authority (PPA) in association with the Major Ports Sports Control Board.

The valedictory function was graced by Shri P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, Shri Haranadh expressed his appreciation to all participants for their impressive performances and for delighting the residents of the port township throughout the four-day event. He extended his warmest congratulations to the unprecedented number of lady artistes whose dedication and talent have set a new benchmark for excellence in this year's program.

The cultural meet witnessed enthusiastic participation of around 200 artistes from 9 major ports across the country, who competed in various cultural disciplines. Team Systems Prowess Mumbai Port Authority emerged as the Overall Champions of the meet. Mumbai Port Authority secured the Runners-up position, while Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Port Authority were adjudged jointly as Second Runners-up.

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## India Records Sharp Growth in Fisheries Sector; Becomes 2nd Largest Fish Producer Globally

- India's fish production increased to **197.75 lakh tonnes in FY 2024–25**, up from **95.79 lakh tonnes in FY 2013–14**, marking a **106% rise** in a decade.
- The fisheries sector has become a major contributor to the rural economy and supports **about 3 crore fishers and fish farmers** across the country.
- Since **2014–15**, government initiatives have generated **74.66 lakh employment opportunities** (direct and indirect) in the fisheries value chain.
- India now ranks as the **world's 2nd largest fish producer**, contributing **around 8% of global fish production**.
- **Average aquaculture productivity** has increased to **4.77 tonnes per hectare**, supported by better technology, quality seeds, and scientific farming practices.
- The sector contributes **7.43% to Agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA)**, the highest among agriculture and allied activities.
- Since **2015**, investments worth **₹38,572 crore** have been announced through key schemes including **Blue Revolution, Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** and **PMMKSSY**.
- Projects worth **₹32,723 crore** have been approved for infrastructure, cold chain, harbours, modern aquaculture systems and fisheries value chain strengthening.
- The fisheries sector has strong **social security coverage**, including **Group Accidental Insurance for 34.71 lakh fishers**, nutritional support during fishing ban periods, and **4.49 lakh Kisan Credit Cards** issued with loans of **₹3,569.60 crore**.
- India is a leading seafood exporter. In **2023–24**, India exported **16.98 lakh tonnes of seafood worth ₹62,408 crore**, supported by modern processing and improved export infrastructure.



## APEDA Inaugurates Regional Office in Raipur, Chhattisgarh to Boost Agricultural Exports

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has inaugurated its **Regional Office in Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.
- The office was inaugurated during the **2nd India International Rice Summit** held in Chhattisgarh.
- The initiative aims to **strengthen agricultural and processed food exports** from Chhattisgarh and support **farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and exporters**.
- Chhattisgarh has strong export potential, especially in **premium non-basmati rice and GI-tagged rice varieties** such as **Jeera Phool Rice and Nagri Dubraj Rice**.
- The state also produces **fruits, vegetables and minor forest produce** including **mahua and tamarind**, offering significant scope for export growth.
- The **Raipur APEDA office** will provide **export registration, advisory services, market intelligence, certification support**, and assistance in **export facilitation, infrastructure development and market linkage**.
- The office has already supported the **export of fortified rice kernels** from Chhattisgarh to **Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea**, demonstrating its functional impact.
- **APEDA** functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India**, and is responsible for **promoting exports of agricultural and processed food**

APEDA Inaugurates Regional Office in Raipur to Boost Agriculture and Processed Food Exports from Chhattisgarh

Press Information Bureau | January 13, 2025

A new regional office opened today at the 2nd India International Rice Summit of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will play a vital role in supporting agriculture and processed food exports from the state of Chhattisgarh (Press Information Bureau). The office will provide export registration, advisory services, market intelligence, certification support, infrastructure facilitation, and market linkages to farmers, producer groups, cooperatives, and exporters in Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh has a diverse agricultural base with high-quality non-basmati rice varieties, GI-tagged products such as Jeera Phool Rice and Nagri Dubraj Rice, as well as a variety of fruits, vegetables, and minor forest products, which provide an excellent opportunity to expand its export potential. In his address to the Assembly regarding the APEDA office located in Raipur, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Mr. Vishnu Deo Sai, explained that opening an APEDA office in Raipur is part of the state's goal to connect Chhattisgarh farmers with global markets for exporting high-value, sustainable produce. According to Mr. Vishnu Deo Sai, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Piyush Goyal has provided valuable assistance in approving the establishment of the APEDA office in Raipur, and the Government of Chhattisgarh supports the efforts of the new APEDA office by generating potato-based organic exports. Initial shipments of fortified rice kernels from Chhattisgarh through the new APEDA office have been shipped to Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea, indicating the success of the new APEDA office within the first few months of operation.

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products, including **quality certification, branding and international market access.**

- Establishment of the regional office will **decentralize export promotion** and provide **direct on-ground support** to stakeholders in Chhattisgarh.

### Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 to Promote Responsible AI Adoption

- **IndiaAI, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP)** are set to host the **Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026** in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The conference was announced by **PIB Delhi on 11 January 2026.**
- The event aims to **promote responsible, inclusive and scalable Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption** across Indian states.
- The conference will showcase **Uttar Pradesh's leadership in AI-driven governance and public service delivery.**
- It will serve as an **official precursor** to the **IndiaAI Impact Summit 2026**, which will be held in **New Delhi from 16–20 February 2026.**
- The Lucknow conference is part of a **national series of eight Regional AI Impact Conferences** being organised under the **IndiaAI framework.**
- Objective: To align **state-level AI initiatives** with the broader **IndiaAI Mission**, ensuring **safe, trustworthy, citizen-centric and responsible AI development** in India.
- The conference highlights UP's progress in **digital governance, healthcare innovation, and technology-led public service delivery**, positioning it as a **model state.**
- A key focus is on **deploying AI at population scale** to improve governance outcomes and social welfare.
- The event emphasizes **Responsible AI principles** including **fairness, transparency and inclusivity**, particularly in public sector applications.
- It aims to foster **collaboration between government bodies, industry, startups, academia and global institutions** to support innovation and policy convergence.
- The 2-day conference will feature **plenary sessions and thematic discussions** on:
  - **Global AI landscape**
  - **State readiness for AI adoption**
  - **Capacity-building frameworks for government systems**
- Major thematic focus: **AI in Healthcare**, covering **AI-driven healthcare delivery, digital public health infrastructure, AI-enabled diagnostics** and **clinical innovation.**



#### About Uttar Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **National Parks:** Dudhwa National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (Shahid Chandra Shekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary), Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranipur Wildlife

#### RECENT NEWS

- India is preparing to set up its first ever Forest University in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. Marking a major step in advancing education and research in forestry, wildlife conservation, and environmental sciences. The project reflects the growing national focus

on biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation, and sustainable natural resource management.

### AWARDS AND HONOURS

#### Goa Industrialist Shrinivas Dempo Conferred Italy's High Civilian Honour – Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia

• **Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo** has been conferred **Italy's prestigious civilian honour "Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia"** (Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy).



Panaji: Italy conferred the Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia (Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy), a prestigious civilian honour, on industrialist and chairperson of the Dempo Group, Shrinivas Dempo.

The honour was officially bestowed on Dempo at a ceremony in Goa by the consul general for Italy in Mumbai, Walter Ferrara.

- The honour recognises his **long-standing contributions in supporting Italian citizens in India** and **promoting India–Italy cooperation in business, culture, and community engagement**.
- The award highlights Dempo's role in **strengthening bilateral ties beyond government channels**, showcasing the importance of **industry leaders and non-state actors** in international relations.
- The honour was presented during a **special ceremony held in Goa**.
- The decoration was conferred by **Walter Ferrara, Consul General of Italy in Mumbai**, on behalf of the **Government of Italy**.
- The ceremony was attended by **senior officials, diplomats and business leaders**, indicating Italy's high appreciation of Dempo's contribution.
- Dempo was honoured for **fostering institutional and community-level links** between India and Italy, supporting **Italian residents and professionals in India**, and encouraging partnerships in **trade, culture, and social initiatives**.
- The recognition signifies Italy's emphasis on **people-to-people diplomacy**, grassroots engagement and strengthening **Indo-Italian relations at regional and sub-national levels**.
- The honour comes at a time when **India–Italy relations are expanding** in sectors like **manufacturing, technology, infrastructure, design and industrial cooperation**.
- The **Order of the Star of Italy** is awarded to **foreign nationals and Italians abroad** who significantly contribute to enhancing Italy's international relations and cooperation.
- The rank "**Cavaliere**" (**Knight**) represents a **high level of recognition** for sustained contribution to **cultural diplomacy, economic ties and community engagement**, reinforcing Italy's **soft power outreach**.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Senior Indian Diplomat D.B. Venkatesh Varma Appointed Chair of UN Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters for 2026–27

- **D.B. Venkatesh Varma**, a senior **Indian diplomat** and member of the **National Security Advisory Board**, has been appointed **Chair** of the **UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (ABDM)** for **2026–27**.
- This marks the **first time an Indian** has been chosen to **lead the UN disarmament advisory body**, a milestone for **Indian diplomacy**.
- The **Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (ABDM)** was established in **1978** pursuant to paragraph 124 of the **Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the UN General Assembly**.
- **Indian diplomats** have previously been **members of the Board**, but **no Indian** has held the **Chair position** until now.

- **D.B. Venkatesh Varma** is a leading expert on **disarmament** and **Russia-related strategic affairs**.
- He has previously served in the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**, including during **India-US civil nuclear deal negotiations**.
- Varma also served as **India's ambassador to Russia**, managing bilateral ties during critical phases, including **Covid-era coordination** and the launch of India's **Act Far East policy** from **Vladivostok in 2019**.
- The **ABDM** advises the **UN Secretary-General** on **arms limitation and disarmament**, including **studies and research** conducted under the **UN system**.
- In addition to its advisory role, the **Board** serves as the **Board of Trustees** of the **United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDR)**.
- The **Board** advises the **Secretary-General** on the implementation of the **United Nations Disarmament Information Programme**.
- **Members of the Advisory Board** are chosen by the **UN Secretary-General** from all regions based on their **knowledge and experience** in **disarmament and international security**.
- The **Board** comprises **fifteen members**, with the **Director of UNIDR** serving as an **ex officio** member.

**In a First, Varma Named Chair of UN Body on Disarmament**

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

New Delhi: Senior Indian diplomat and National Security Advisory Board member DB Venkatesh Varma has been nominated by the UN Secretary General as chair of his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters for 2026-27, in what can be described as a milestone for Indian diplomacy.

The advisory board was established in 1978 and over the years has had Indian diplomats as its members, but this is the first time the chair will be held by an Indian.

Varma is among India's foremost experts on disarmament matters and Russia. He had served in the Prime Minister's Office earlier in his career, including during the time of negotiations for the India-US nuclear deal.

He was India's ambassador to Russia, navigating the strategic partnership between the two countries during a critical phase, including during the Covid-era which required coordination between various Russian and Indian agencies. India's Act Far East policy was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Vladivostok in 2019 when Varma was India's Ambassador to Russia.



**Justice Revati Mohite-Dere Takes Oath as Meghalaya High Court's First Woman Chief Justice**

- **Justice Revati Mohite-Dere**, a judge of the **Bombay High Court (HC)**, was sworn in as the first woman **Chief Justice (CJ)** of the **Meghalaya High Court**, marking a historic milestone.
- The **oath of office** was administered by **Chandrashekhar H. Vijayashankar, Governor of Meghalaya**, at the **Durbar Hall of Lok Bhavan** in **Shillong, Meghalaya**.
- She succeeded **Justice Soumen Sen**, who was transferred to the **Kerala High Court**.
- **High Court judges** in India are appointed by the **President of India** under **Article 217** of the **Constitution of India**.
- **Justice Revati Mohite-Dere** practiced **criminal, civil, and constitutional law** at the **Bombay High Court** and **Sessions Court**.
- She served in key legal roles including **Assistant Government Pleader (Writ Cell)**, **Bombay HC**, **Senior Counsel for the Union of India (Group I & II)**, **Government Pleader (GP)** and **Public Prosecutor (PP)** for Maharashtra, and **Additional Public Prosecutor (APP)** for the Union of India.
- She was appointed as an **Additional Judge** of the **Bombay High Court** on **21 June 2013** and was elevated as a **permanent Judge** on **2 March 2016**.
- She is known for significant **judicial contributions** in **constitutional law, criminal law, and Public Interest Litigations (PILs)**.



**Gagan Narang Appointed as Director of India's National Olympic Academy by Indian Olympic Association**

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- Olympic medallist **Gagan Narang** has been appointed as the **Director** of the **National Olympic Academy (NOA)** of India by the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**.
- The appointment was approved during the **IOA Executive Council meeting** on **8 January 2026** and unanimously endorsed by the **IOA General House** on **9 January 2026** in **Ahmedabad**.
- Simultaneously, the **IOA** launched the **National Olympic Education and Development Programme (NOEDP)**, a structured national framework to promote **Olympic education** and **athlete development**.
- The **NOEDP** will be implemented in partnership with **National Sports Federations** and **State Olympic Associations**, targeting athletes and sport stakeholders from **grassroots to elite levels**.
- **IOA President P.T. Usha** has been named **President** of the **National Olympic Academy**, which will collaborate with the **International Olympic Academy** to align India's framework with **global best practices**.
- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, established in **1927**, is India's **National Olympic Committee** responsible for selecting athletes for the **Olympics**, **Asian Games**, and other international events.



## DEFENCE NEWS

### Indian Army Holds Military–Civil Fusion Exercise ‘Sanjha Shakti’ in Maharashtra

- The **Indian Army (IA)** conducted the **first-ever** two-day joint **Military–Civil Fusion (MCF)** exercise named **‘Sanjha Shakti’**.
- The exercise was held at the **Diggi Range, Khadki Military Station, Pune, Maharashtra** from **8–9 January 2026**.
- It was conducted under the aegis of the **Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa (MG & G) Area of the Southern Command**.

Military Civil Fusion Exercise "Sanjha Shakti" Conducted at Khadki Military Station

संयुक्त सैन्य-सिविल फ्यूजन अभ्यास 'संजहा शक्ति' का खडकी सैन्य स्टेशन पर आयोजन

Pune | 9 January 2026

A joint Military Civil Fusion (MCF) exercise, "Sanjha Shakti", was successfully conducted from 08 to 09 January 2026 at the Diggi Range, Khadki Military Station, under the aegis of MG & G Area, Southern Command. The exercise highlighted seamless coordination and joint preparedness among civil and military agencies to address complex security challenges and emergency situations.



### About Exercise Sanjha Shakti

- The **primary objective** of the exercise was to enhance **civil–military synergy**, **rapid response capability**, and **public safety** in rear areas.
- The exercise witnessed participation from the **Indian Army** and **16 key civilian agencies**, including **Maharashtra Police, Force One**, and **fire and emergency services**.
- Over **350 civilian personnel**, excluding Army personnel, actively participated in the exercise.
- Operations included **realistic, mission-oriented scenarios** that tested **interoperability, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), communication protocols**, and **decision-making** across multiple levels.
- The outcomes of the exercise validated **seamless coordination**, strengthened **joint preparedness**, and demonstrated the effectiveness of the **MCF framework**.
- **Sanjha Shakti** highlighted the ability of **civil and military agencies** to address **complex security challenges** and **emergency situations**.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### India's PSLV Faces Back-to-Back Launch Failures, 16 Satellites Destroyed

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- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched the **PSLV-C62 mission**, its first launch of **2026**, from the **First Launch Pad at Sriharikota**.
- The mission aimed to place **Anvesha (EOS-N1)** and **15 other satellites** into a **sun-synchronous polar orbit (SSO)**.
- The mission was executed through **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** and was the **ninth dedicated commercial Earth-observation mission** of PSLV.
- **PSLV-C62 mission failed**, becoming the **second consecutive failure** of the PSLV, resulting in the **loss of 16 satellites**, including a foreign **Earth-observation payload**.
- The **44.4-metre-tall rocket** was launched from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**, after a **22.5-hour countdown**, aiming for a **512-km Sun-synchronous orbit**.
- The **mission failure** occurred during the **third stage (PS3)**, which provides **rapid acceleration** needed to reach orbit.
- The rocket flew normally for about **17 minutes**, and the problem was detected only during the operation of the **third stage**.
- Major payloads lost include **DRDO's Navsha** (Anvesha) surveillance satellite, **AyuSAT** (India's first in-orbit fuelling satellite), a **student-built Cubesat**, a **Thailand-UK Earth observation satellite**, and **Spain's re-entry technology payload (KID)**.
- This failure is significant because **PSLV is ISRO's most reliable launch vehicle**, and **back-to-back failures** raise concerns about **mission reliability and quality control** for future launches.
- **PSLV-C62** was the **second successive PSLV failure**, following its **May 2025 flight** carrying **EOS-09**, which had also failed in a **similar manner**.



**Apple Partners with Google to Integrate Gemini AI into Its Foundation Models**

- **Apple** has signed a **multi-year deal** with **Google** to use **Google's Gemini AI models** to power its **Apple Foundation Models**.
- The **Apple Foundation Models** will drive future **Apple Intelligence** features, including the **revamped Siri**.
- Apple chose **Gemini AI** because it offers the **most capable AI foundation**, while ensuring **privacy** through **on-device processing** and Apple's **Private Cloud Compute (PCC)**.
- Previously, Apple had partnered with **OpenAI's ChatGPT** to handle complex Siri queries, but it is now **unclear how this partnership will continue** after **Gemini** takes over Siri's **core intelligence**.
- The **new AI-powered Siri**, expected with **iOS 26.4** in **March 2026**, will be able to understand **personal context** from **emails, messages, and calendars** to provide **customised answers**.

**Google, Apple enter into AI deal for Gemini models**

**BLOOMBERG**  
 12 January

Alphabet Inc.'s Google confirmed that it has entered a multi-year deal with Apple to power the iPhone maker's artificial intelligence technology, including the Siri voice assistant.  
 "After careful evaluation, Apple determined that Google's AI technology provides the most capable foundation for Apple Foundation Models and is excited about the innovative new experiences it will unlock for Apple users," Google said Monday in a post on the X social media network.  
 Terms of the agreement weren't disclosed. Bloomberg reported late last year that the two companies were finalizing such a deal, with Apple planning to pay about \$1 billion a year. Shares of Alphabet rose as much as 1.7% Monday, while Apple was up less than 1%.  
 In the statement, Google said that Apple would maintain its privacy standards by continuing to run its AI services on consumers' devices or via Private Cloud Compute — a secure online system.  
 "The Google technology will help support a new version of Siri that is due this year. Apple had previously delayed the update after development snags, part of broader struggles to introduce AI features."

**Defence Research and Development Organization Successfully Tests Third-Generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile at Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra**

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, successfully conducted the **flight test** of the **Third-Generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**.
- The test demonstrated the **top-attack capability** of **MPATGM** against a **moving armoured target**.
- The **flight test** was carried out at the **KK Ranges in Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra**.
- The test was conducted by the **Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL)**, a laboratory of **DRDO**, located in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- The missile was launched from a **tripod-mounted launcher** as well as a **military vehicle-mounted launcher**.
- The primary objective of the test was to validate **flight performance, accuracy, and effectiveness** against both **moving and static armoured targets**.



**DRDO carries out flight test of anti-tank guided missile**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Sunday successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed third-generation fire-and-forget man portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) with top-attack capability against a moving target in the K.K. Ranges in Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra. The Defence Ministry said the flight test was conducted by the DRDO's Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, and it marked a significant milestone towards the induction of the advanced anti-tank weapon system into the Indian Army. It incorporates cutting-edge indigenous technologies, including an imaging infrared (IIR) homing seeker.

### Key Highlights :

- **About Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**
- **MPATGM** is a **lightweight** and sophisticated **anti-armour missile system** developed for infantry use.
- It is a **third-generation, fire-and-forget** anti-tank guided weapon designed to destroy **armoured threats**.
- The system is designed to be carried and operated by a **small team** for battlefield deployment.
- **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** served as the **Development-Cum-Production Partners (DcPP)** for the **MPATGM system**.
- The missile can be deployed from a **tripod or launch tube**, enabling **precision targeting** in combat situations.
- **Technical Features**
- **MPATGM** is approximately **1.3 metres long** with a diameter of about **120 millimetres (mm)**.
- The missile weighs around **14.5 kilograms (kg)**, while the **Command Launch Unit (CLU)** weighs about **14.25 kg**.
- The missile has an **effective engagement range** from **200 metres to 4 kilometres (km)**.
- **MPATGM** uses an advanced **Imaging Infrared (IIR) seeker** combined with modern **avionics** for guidance and control.
- The system provides a **fire-and-forget capability**, allowing operation in **day and night** and **all-weather conditions**.
- The missile can be employed in **two attack modes**, namely **direct attack mode** and **top-attack mode**.
- In **top-attack mode**, the missile climbs and strikes the target from above, targeting the **weakest armour** of tanks.
- **Indigenous Technologies**
- The **indigenously developed MPATGM** incorporates advanced **home-grown technologies**.
- Key technologies include an **Imaging Infrared (IIR) homing seeker**, an **all-electric control actuation system**, a **fire control system**, a **tandem warhead**, an **integrated propulsion system**, and a **high-performance sighting system**.
- These technologies were developed by multiple **laboratories of DRDO**.

- The successful **flight test** of **MPATGM** aligns with the Government of India (GoI)'s vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)**.

**About Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) :**

- **Established : 1970.**
- **Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana.**
- **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) : Commodore A. Madhavrao (Retired).**

**Ola Electric Unveils 'Shakti', Its First Home Battery Storage System, at Krishnagiri Gigafactory**

- **Ola Electric** has launched its first **portable home battery energy storage system (BESS)** named **'Shakti'** at its **Gigafactory** in **Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu**.
- The launch marks **Ola's entry** into the **residential battery storage market**, expanding its business **beyond electric vehicles (EVs)**.
- **Shakti** is powered by **Ola's indigenous 4680 Bharat Cell** and features **advanced battery management, intelligent energy storage, and safety systems**.
- The system is designed to provide **backup power** for homes and offices, allowing users to store electricity for use during **power cuts** or **peak demand**.
- **Shakti** supports India's push towards **renewable energy and energy independence** by enabling storage of **solar or grid power**.
- **Ola** aims to build an **energy ecosystem** that extends beyond mobility into **clean power and storage solutions**.

**Ola Electric launches Shakti energy storage**



**GAIL and Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Roll Out #NonStopZindagi Initiative under National PNG Drive 2.0**

- **GAIL (India) Limited** partnered with the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** for the **National PNG Drive 2.0**.
- The campaign is part of the nationwide **"#NonStopZindagi"** initiative, running from **1 January to 31 March 2026**.
- The campaign aims to promote the adoption of **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** and **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)** across India.



**About National PNG Drive 2.0 :**

- The initiative promotes **PNG, CNG**, and the **City Gas Distribution (CGD)** ecosystem to support India's **clean energy transition**.
- It emphasizes the **safety, reliability, convenience, cost-efficiency, and environmental benefits** of these fuels.
- The national goal is to increase the share of **natural gas** in India's primary energy basket to **15% by 2030** and strengthen a **gas-based economy**.
- **PNGRB's "One Nation, One Grid, One Tariff"** framework standardizes transportation charges, integrates the **national gas grid**, and reduces costs for consumers.

- Target segments include **domestic PNG households, commercial establishments, industrial users, and CNG automobile consumers.**
- The campaign uses a **multi-platform strategy**, combining **digital outreach** (social media, influencers, platform-optimized videos) with **on-ground activations** like **RWA toolkits, mobile vans, and festival-themed messaging.**
- **Standardized creative toolkits** are provided for **CGD entities** to ensure uniform messaging and **measurable lead generation.**
- The initiative is significant as it encourages **cleaner fuel adoption**, strengthens the **national gas ecosystem**, and reduces **regional disparities** in energy access.

#### About GAIL (India) Limited :

- **Established:** 1984
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi
- **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD):** Sandeep Kumar Gupta
- **GAIL (India) Limited** is India's largest state-owned **natural gas company** under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).**

#### Chinese Scientists Develop World's First Lunar Time-Keeping Software LTE440

- Chinese scientists from the **Purple Mountain Observatory**, Nanjing, have developed the world's first **lunar time-keeping software** called **LTE440 (Lunar Time Ephemeris).**
- **LTE440** is designed to accurately **track time on the Moon**, supporting **navigation, landings, and communication systems** for future lunar missions.
- **Time on the Moon** runs **faster than on Earth** by approximately **56 millionths of a second (56 microseconds)** per day due to **weaker gravity** and **relativistic effects.**
- If **lunar time differences** are not corrected, they can cause **major errors** in **space navigation** over time.
- The software uses a **high-precision model** that accounts for the **Moon's gravity** and **orbital motion**, allowing **direct comparison** between **Earth time** and **lunar time** in **one step.**
- **LTE440** builds on the **International Astronomical Union's 2024 framework** for a **Moon-specific time standard**, making the concept of "**Moon time**" a practical tool for future **lunar exploration.**
- The software ensures **accuracy** within a **few tens of nanoseconds** even over **1,000 years**, according to a paper published in **Astronomy and Astrophysics** (December 2025 issue).
- Previously, **Earth time** was used for lunar operations, but as **missions to the Moon increase**, a dedicated **lunar time standard** has become an **engineering necessity.**
- Differences as small as a **microsecond** can become significant in **navigation systems**, affecting calculations over short timescales, emphasizing the need for **precise lunar timekeeping.**
- The software allows users to **compare lunar and Earth time** in a **single step**, avoiding **complex manual calculations.**



#### MOUS AND AGREEMENT

#### ICAR – NDDB Sign MoU to Strengthen Dairy Research and Development (January 2026)

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- **The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in dairy research, innovation, technology integration and extension services.**
- The MoU aims to **benefit millions of dairy farmers** by improving **productivity, resilience, value addition** and establishing a strong **research–field connect**.
- The collaboration covers the **entire dairy value chain** including production, processing and value addition, with emphasis on multidisciplinary research, technology validation and capacity building.
- The partnership focuses on linking laboratory research with real farm-level practices to ensure effective technology transfer and grassroots **implementation**.
- The MoU seeks to address **livestock productivity challenges, climate resilience, sustainable dairy development** and strengthening of the dairy ecosystem in a **structured and long-term manner**.
- A major objective is **empowering dairy farmers**, improving **productivity, profitability and sustainability**, and enhancing **extension services and knowledge sharing** to improve **farm incomes and livelihoods**, especially across diverse agro-climatic regions.
- The collaboration promotes **integrated and complementary research** with focus areas including **climate-resilient livestock systems, fodder development, low productivity challenges, manure management, biogas utilization, ration balancing and value chain strengthening**.
- **ICAR** will contribute **scientific expertise and modern technologies**, while **NDDB** will support **large-scale field testing, adoption and implementation**.
- Senior leadership including **Mangi Lal Jat** emphasized integrated farming, fodder security and sustainable solutions like **gaushala-based manure management**, while **Meenesh Shah** highlighted creation of a **global-scale integrated dairy research platform** aligned with **Viksit Bharat** vision.
- The MoU prioritizes **capacity building** through **joint training programmes, workshops and skill development** for **scientists, extension workers and farmers**, along with emphasis on **mineral mapping, ethno-veterinary practices and total mixed ration systems**.
- **ICAR** is India's **apex agricultural research body**, and **NDDB** is the key institution behind **India's dairy revolution (White Revolution)**; both have previously collaborated, making this MoU a **continuation of their longstanding partnership**.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has entered into a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to enhance collaboration in multidisciplinary research, innovation, and capacity building across the entire dairy sector. The partnership spans key areas including dairy production, processing, and value addition, with a strong emphasis on empowering its primary stakeholders millions of dairy farmers across the country.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Paghavendra Bhatta, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), ICAR, and Shri S. Rajgopal, Executive Director (Operations), NDDB, in the august presence of Dr. M.L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), and Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB.



## India–Germany Sign Key Agreements on Migration, Security, Clean Energy; Germany Announces Visa-Free Transit for Indians

- **India and Germany** signed major agreements covering **migration, mobility, security cooperation, clean energy, and cultural partnership** during bilateral talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **German Chancellor Friedrich Merz** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- Both sides emphasized **legal migration and skilled workforce cooperation**, especially for **Indian healthcare professionals**. A **Joint Declaration of Intent on Global Skills Partnership** was issued to facilitate **structured, ethical and mutually beneficial mobility of skilled workers**.
- Germany announced **visa-free transit facility for Indian nationals**, strengthening



NEW DELHI: India and Germany on Monday finalised 19 agreements and announced a series of measures spanning defence, critical technologies, clean energy, education and mobility during German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's two-day official visit, with Berlin also announcing visa-free transit for Indian passport holders.

The ministry of external affairs said the outcomes were aimed at deepening cooperation across strategic, economic and people-to-people pillars of the bilateral partnership.

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**people-to-people ties**, travel convenience, business, education and cultural exchanges.

- Agreements were signed to enhance **security cooperation**, reaffirming commitment to tackling **regional and global security challenges** through dialogue and collaboration.
- **Clean and sustainable energy** emerged as a priority. An **India–Germany Centre of Excellence** will be established to promote **green technologies, innovation and climate solutions**, aligning with **India’s energy transition goals** and **Germany’s clean-tech leadership**.
- A cultural partnership was announced between the **German Maritime Museum** and **National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal (Gujarat)**, strengthening **maritime heritage and cultural diplomacy**.
- The developments come as **India–Germany bilateral trade crosses USD 50 billion**, with both nations pushing for progress on a **long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.
- The visit marks **75 years of India–Germany diplomatic relations** and **25 years of strategic partnership**. This was **Chancellor Friedrich Merz’s first visit to Asia** after assuming office.
- Senior Indian officials including **S. Jaishankar, Ajit Doval, and Vikram Misri** were part of the discussions, highlighting the **strategic importance** of the engagement.
- As part of symbolic engagements, both leaders visited **Sabarmati Ashram** and participated in the **International Kite Festival** at Sabarmati Riverfront, reflecting strong cultural ties.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Virat Kohli Becomes 2nd Highest Run-Scorer in International Cricket

- **Virat Kohli**, Indian cricketer, has become the **second-highest run-scorer in international cricket**, surpassing **Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)**.
- He achieved this milestone during the **1st ODI against New Zealand** held in **Vadodara**.
- Kohli surpassed **Sangakkara’s tally of 28,016 international runs** during his **93-run innings off 91 balls**.
- With this, **Virat Kohli’s total international career runs** stand at **28,068 runs** across **Tests, ODIs and T20 Internationals**.
- Kohli now ranks **2nd**, behind **Sachin Tendulkar**, who remains the **highest run-scorer in international cricket** with **34,357 runs**.
- His innings helped **India chase a target of 301 runs**, securing victory by **4 wickets with 6 balls remaining**.
- He was awarded the **Player of the Match**, and India took a **1–0 lead** in the three-match ODI series.



Virat Kohli becomes 2nd highest run getter in international cricket. (Picture Credit: AP)

India's innings in the 301-run chase.

Virat Kohli is now the second-highest run-getter in international cricket. The 37-year-old right-handed batter from Delhi leapfrogged Kumar Sangakkara on Sunday (January 11) to become the second-highest run getter. Kohli needed 42 runs in the ongoing first India-New Zealand ODI at BCA Stadium in Vadodara to go past Sangakkara's tally of 28,016 runs, and he achieved the objective during the 19th over of

- **Top International Run Scorers**
- **Sachin Tendulkar (India)** – 34,357 runs
- **Virat Kohli (India)** – 28,068 runs
- **Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)** – 28,016 runs
- **Ricky Ponting (Australia)** – 27,483 runs
- **Mahela Jayawardene (Sri Lanka)** – 25,957 runs

## OBITUARIES

### Former Olympian and Hockey Player Davinder Singh Garcha Passed Away

- **Davinder Singh Garcha**, a former **Indian hockey player** and **Olympian** passed away at the age of **73 years** in **Jalandhar, Punjab**.

**About Davinder Singh Garcha :**

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- Davinder Singh Garcha was born on 7 **December 1952** in **Amritsar, Punjab**.
- He represented India in **international hockey** and played over **30 international matches**, scoring **19 goals** in three major international tournaments.
- He was a key member of the **Indian Hockey Team** that won the **Gold Medal** at the **1980 Moscow Olympic Games** held in Moscow, Russia.
- During the **1980 Olympics**, he scored **8 goals in 6 matches**, playing a crucial role in India's success.
- India secured its record **8th Olympic Gold Medal** in hockey by defeating **Spain by 4–3** in the final match.
- Apart from sports, **Davinder Singh Garcha** was a former **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer.
- He served as the **Deputy Inspector General (DIG)** of **Punjab Police**.
- After retiring from competitive hockey, he actively worked for the **promotion and development** of hockey in India.
- He served as the **President** of the **Olympian Surjit Hockey Society**, which organises annual hockey tournaments.
- He was also the **President** of the **Mohinder Singh Munshi Hockey Tournament**.
- The **Mohinder Singh Munshi Hockey Tournament** is an **All India Under-19 (U-19)** hockey tournament.
- The tournament is held in memory of Olympian **Mohinder Singh Munshi**, who was a member of India's **1975 Hockey World Cup–winning team**.



#### Awards & Honors :

- In **2021**, he was honoured with the **Major Dhyan Chand Award**.
- The **Major Dhyan Chand Award** is India's highest **lifetime achievement award** in sports.
- The award was conferred by the **Government of India (GoI)** in recognition of his **exceptional contributions** to hockey.

#### Daily CA One- Liner: January 14

- **Chhattisgarh** has emerged as the **top-performing large state** in generating **APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) IDs**, achieving around **88.63% coverage** of enrolled students as of early **January 2026**
- The **25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26** concluded at **Jayadev Sadan, Paradip Port**, after four days of cultural performances
- **India's fish production** increased to **197.75 lakh tonnes in FY 2024–25**, up from **95.79 lakh tonnes in FY 2013–14**, marking a **106% rise** in a decade
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has inaugurated its **Regional Office in Raipur, Chhattisgarh**
- **IndiaAI, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and **Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP)** are set to host the **Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo** has been conferred **Italy's prestigious civilian honour "Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia" (Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy)**.
- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to

enhance cooperation in **dairy research, innovation, technology integration and extension services.**

- **India and Germany** signed major agreements covering **migration, mobility, security cooperation, clean energy, and cultural partnership** during bilateral talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **German Chancellor Friedrich Merz** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
- **Virat Kohli**, Indian cricketer, has become the **second-highest run-scorer in international cricket**, surpassing **Kumar Sangakkara.**
- **Domestic gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) in India** saw their holdings jump **65% to 95 tonnes** in **2025**, making India the **6th largest holder** of gold ETFs globally, up from **8th place in 2024.**
- **India's retail inflation (CPI)** eased to **1.33%** in **December 2025**, marking the **lowest level in three months** and remaining well below the **RBI's tolerance band.**
- **D.B. Venkatesh Varma**, a senior **Indian diplomat** and member of the **National Security Advisory Board**, has been appointed **Chair** of the **UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (ABDM)** for **2026–27.**
- **Justice Revati Mohite-Dere**, a judge of the **Bombay High Court (HC)**, was sworn in as the first woman **Chief Justice (CJ)** of the **Meghalaya High Court**, marking a historic milestone.
- **Olympic medallist Gagan Narang** has been appointed as the **Director** of the **National Olympic Academy (NOA)** of India by the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA).**
- The **Indian Army (IA)** conducted the **first-ever** two-day joint **Military–Civil Fusion (MCF)** exercise named '**Sanjha Shakti**'.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched the **PSLV-C62 mission**, its first launch of **2026**, from the **First Launch Pad** at **Sriharikota.**
- **Apple** has signed a **multi-year deal** with **Google** to use **Google's Gemini AI models** to power its **Apple Foundation Models.**
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, successfully conducted the **flight test** of the **Third-Generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).**
- **Ola Electric** has launched its first **portable home battery energy storage system (BESS)** named '**Shakti**' at its **Gigafactory** in **Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu.**
- **GAIL (India) Limited** partnered with the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** for the **National PNG Drive 2.0.**
- Chinese scientists from the **Purple Mountain Observatory**, Nanjing, have developed the world's first **lunar time-keeping software** called **LTE440 (Lunar Time Ephemeris).**
- **Davinder Singh Garcha**, a former **Indian hockey player** and **Olympian** passed away at the age of **73 years** in **Jalandhar, Punjab.**