

## **Bahrain-India Real-Time Cross-Border Payments Launched via UPI-**

### **Fawri+**

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) partnered with Bahrain's BENEFIT to enable real-time cross-border remittances between India and Bahrain
- Links India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Bahrain's Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS) through Fawri+ service
- Users in both countries can send and receive money instantly and securely, replacing slower traditional remittance methods
- Developed under guidance of Reserve Bank of India and Central Bank of Bahrain
- Supports Indian diaspora (approximately 30% of Bahrain's population) and strengthens economic integration
- Built on foundation of 2019 MoU signed during PM Modi's state visit to Bahrain; reinforced by 4th India-Bahrain High Joint Commission Meeting (December 2024)

## **RBI Recognises Self-Regulated PSO Association as Payment SRO**

- Reserve Bank of India recognised Self-Regulated PSO Association (SRPA) as Self-Regulated Organisation (SRO) for Payment System Operators (PSOs)
- Move follows RBI's Framework for Recognition of SROs for Payment System Operators (issued October 2020)
- Also aligns with Omnibus Framework for Recognition of SROs for Regulated Entities (issued March 2024)
- Recognition strengthens self-regulation and governance in India's digital payments ecosystem

## **IFC Invests ₹285 Crore in Axis Max Life for Insurance Expansion**

- International Finance Corporation (IFC) invested ₹285 crore (\$33 million) in Axis Max Life Insurance Limited through long-dated subordinated instruments
- Marks IFC's first investment in licensed Indian life insurer, supporting solvency margin and sector expansion
- Aims to enhance financial inclusion with focus on women and underserved communities
- Aligns with India's goal of "Insurance for All by 2047"; attracts institutional and foreign investments
- Life insurance penetration in India dropped to 2.8% in FY24 (from 3% previous year); non-life remained at 1%
- Axis Max Life recorded gross written premium of ₹33,223 crore (FY25 audited financials)
- Partnership brings global expertise in governance and sustainable business practices

Click Here to take   
**Free Mock Tests** on **PracticeMock**

info@practicemock.com  
011-49032737

## **BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network Conference Held in Kochi**

- First biennial conference of BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network (BIMReN) hosted in Kochi (4-6 November 2025)
- Reinforces India's Blue Economy cooperation in Bay of Bengal region
- BIMReN initiative launched in 2024 by Ministry of External Affairs, announced by PM Modi at 2022 Colombo BIMSTEC Summit
- Enables institutional collaborations through twinning research grants and split-site PhD fellowships
- Pilot phase connected 25 institutions and over 50 researchers from BIMSTEC countries
- Aligns with India's Neighbourhood First, Act East, Indo-Pacific and MAHASAGAR strategies
- Bay of Bengal accounts for 6% of world's fish catch and over one-third of world's fishing fleet
- Conference focused on marine challenges, ecosystem health, research innovations, building scientific networks among young researchers

## **AVPL-CSC Partnership: Drone Technology for Rural Entrepreneurs**

- AVPL International signed MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India (CSC SPV) to integrate drone technology into rural enterprises
- Offers "Viraj UAS" agricultural drones, spare parts, and training via CSC's network of over 5 lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs)
- Mission: "One Drone Entrepreneur per Village" for self-reliant rural India
- Training covers drone operations, maintenance, and data-driven agricultural practices (spraying, crop monitoring, yield optimization)
- Creates new employment and entrepreneurship opportunities while introducing precision-based agricultural methods
- Reduces water consumption, minimizes chemical exposure, protects farmers from health hazards associated with manual spraying
- Aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat vision by promoting indigenous drone manufacturing and sustainable rural development
- AVPL provides after-sales support, maintenance, warranty services; CSC facilitates platform onboarding and outreach

## **India-Saudi Arabia Sign Bilateral Haj Agreement for 2026**

- Union Minister Kiren Rijiju signed bilateral Haj Agreement with Saudi Arabia, setting India's quota at 175,025 pilgrims for Haj 2026

Click Here to take   
**Free Mock Tests** on **PracticeMock**

info@practicemock.com  
011-49032737

- Agreement signed during official visit to Saudi Arabia (7–9 November) with Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah in Jeddah
- Discussions focused on improving pilgrimage experience through enhanced facilities, transportation, accommodation, health services
- Rijiju held internal review meeting with officials from Embassy of India, Riyadh and Consulate General of India, Jeddah to assess Haj 2026 preparations
- Minister conducted field visits to key Haj/Umrah sites in Jeddah and Taif (Terminal 1, Haramain Station) for firsthand infrastructure insight
- Visit marks important milestone in deepening India–Saudi Arabia partnership, reflecting shared commitment to cultural exchange and community welfare
- Strengthens bilateral ties and contributes to welfare of pilgrims through enhanced cooperation

### **UAE Hosts 2026 Asian Youth Archery Championship in Khorfakkan AE**

- United Arab Emirates won bid to host 2026 Asian Youth Archery Championship in city of Khorfakkan
- Announcement made during Asian Archery Federation Congress in Dhaka, Bangladesh (9 Nov 2025)
- UAE Archery Federation delegation led by President Hanadi Khalifa Al Kaboori, Vice President Humaid Al Shamsi, and Secretary-General Hind Al Hosani
- UAE's bid won majority of votes due to advanced sports infrastructure, world-class facilities, and organisational capabilities in Khorfakkan
- Reflects unlimited support of UAE's wise leadership for sports sector and efforts of Ministry of Sports
- Hosting championship marks significant milestone in Federation's journey and represents continuous efforts to develop national teams and nurture emerging talents

### **IN-SPACE, SVCL Launch ₹1,000 Crore Space Tech Venture Capital**

#### **Fund**

- Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd (SVCL) signed contribution agreement in Ahmedabad to operationalise ₹1,000 crore venture capital fund for Indian space sector
- Fund received SEBI approval on 31 October 2025; Union Cabinet approved VC fund in October 2024
- SIDBI appointed as fund manager in March 2025

Click Here to take   
**Free Mock Tests** on PracticeMock

info@practicemock.com  
011-49032737

- Fund designed for early-stage and growth capital to startups working on launch technologies, satellites, payload systems, in-space services, earth observation, communication platforms, downstream applications
- Enables startups to scale and contribute to national space capability and India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision

## **📌 Indian Army Conducts Exercise Brahmashira in Rann-Creek Sector**

- Indian Army conducted Exercise Brahmashira (11–13 Nov 2025) in Rann and Creek Sector under Tri-Services Exercise Trishul
- Brought together Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and BSF with civil administration to validate integrated capabilities across land, sea, air
- Exercise embodies Indian Army's Decade of Transformation integrating Joint Task Forces, state-of-the-art Joint Control Centre, and robust operational infrastructure for multi-domain operations
- Validates new structures, advanced technologies, adaptive warfighting capabilities covering electronic warfare, cyber, drone operations, ISR, Air Defence Control
- Highlights Military-Civil Fusion and Whole-of-Nation approach, showcasing rapid, coordinated, decisive responses across domains
- Part of larger framework embodying JAI (Jointness, Atmanirbharta, Innovation) mantra

## **📌 UNESCO Adopts First Global Ethical Framework for Neurotechnology**

- UNESCO approved world's first international framework on neurotechnology ethics, entering force on 12 November 2025
- Neurotechnology sector grew 700% investment between 2014–2021 with medical applications like deep-brain stimulation, brain-computer interfaces and consumer neural-data collection devices
- Framework urges governments to develop national regulations protecting mental privacy, ensuring equitable access to therapeutic technologies, preventing commercial/employment misuse
- Warns against uses undermining autonomy or enabling intrusive monitoring in workplaces/schools; bans non-therapeutic neurotechnology use on children
- Emphasizes explicit consent, transparency, safeguards for vulnerable communities; calls for oversight and evidence-based evaluation of behaviour-influencing products
- Shaped through consultations with 8,000+ contributors from academia, industry, civil society; led by neuroscientist Hervé Chneiweiss and legal scholar Nita Farahany
- Supports countries in incorporating principles into national law via technical assistance

## **EIL, NMDC Energy Sign MoU for Saudi Arabia Onshore Projects**

- Engineers India Limited (EIL) signed MoU with NMDC Energy (10 Nov 2025, Abu Dhabi) to strengthen cooperation executing onshore projects in Saudi Arabia
- Covers sectors: Oil & Gas Processing, Refineries, Petrochemicals, Pipelines, Storage Terminals, Energy Transition
- Signed at ADIPEC 2025 International Oil & Gas Conference in presence of EIL C&MD Ms. Vartika Shukla and NMDC Energy CEO Eng. Ahmed Al Dhaheri
- Partnership combines EIL's engineering expertise with NMDC Energy's execution capabilities focused on innovation, sustainability, operational excellence
- EIL (PSU under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas) provides concept-to-commissioning services across multiple sectors
- NMDC Energy (UAE-based) offers engineering, procurement, construction solutions in integrated oil & gas, petrochemical, energy transition sectors

## **David Szalay Wins 2025 Booker Prize for Novel "Flesh"**

- Hungarian-British author David Szalay won 2025 Booker Prize (£50,000/\$67,000) for novel "Flesh", becoming first Hungarian-British author to win top English-language literary award
- Novel written in spare prose follows man caught in events beyond control over decades, charting rise from Hungarian housing estate to London's super-rich mansions
- Book described as meditation on class, power, intimacy, migration, masculinity, portraying formative experiences reverberating across lifetime
- Prize chair Roddy Doyle praised work: "We had never read anything quite like it... uses white space on page brilliantly, inviting reader to observe, create character"
- Szalay's sixth novel; previously shortlisted in 2016 for "All That Man Is" telling story of nine men at various life stages
- Canadian-born author quoted: "Never felt entirely at home in Hungary... wanted book stretching between Hungary and London involving character not quite at home in either place"
- Winners gain boost in popularity, increased book sales; shortlisted authors and translators receive £2,500 each

## **15th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue Strengthens Strategic Partnership** **INVN**

- 15th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) held in Hanoi (10 Nov 2025), co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Vietnamese Deputy Minister of National Defence Sr Lt Gen Hoang Xuan Chien

Click Here to take   
**Free Mock Tests** on **PracticeMock**

info@practicemock.com  
011-49032737

- Both sides expressed satisfaction on progress in hydrography cooperation, capacity building & training, UN Peacekeeping Operations, increased port calls and ship visits
- Expanded cooperation in emerging areas: cyber security, real-time information exchange, military medicine, expert exchanges
- Memorandum of Agreement signed for Mutual Submarine Search, Rescue Support and Cooperation, establishing framework for submarine search-rescue operations
- Letter of Intent signed strengthening defence industry cooperation, promoting Technology Transfer, joint research, Joint Ventures, equipment procurement, expert/design/production exchanges
- Meeting convened in December 2025 under existing Implementing Arrangement between Department of Defence Production, India and General Department of Defence Industry, Vietnam
- 16th DPD scheduled for India in 2026; Vietnam key partner in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision

## **India-Sri Lanka Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-XI: Joint Counter-Terrorist Operations INLK**

- 11th Joint Military Exercise "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2025" commenced (10–23 Nov) at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi, Karnataka
- Indian contingent: 170 personnel (mainly RAJPUT Regiment) + 20 Indian Air Force personnel
- Sri Lankan contingent: 135 personnel (mainly GAJABA Regiment) + 10 Sri Lankan Air Force personnel
- Objective: jointly rehearse Sub-Conventional Operations under UN Chapter VII Mandate; synergise counter-terrorist operations, tactical actions (raid, search-destroy, heliborne ops)
- Curriculum includes: Army Martial Arts Routine (AMAR), combat reflex shooting, Yoga; employment of Drones, Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems, helicopters
- Focus: secure helipads, casualty evacuation drills, enhanced interoperability, risk mitigation during UN peacekeeping operations
- Exchange of best practices strengthens bilateral defence cooperation and fosters strong regional relations

## **Co-Op Kumbh 2025: Urban Cooperative Banking Expansion Drive IN**

- Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addressed international conference 'Co-Op Kumbh 2025' in New Delhi, marking International Year of Cooperatives
- Urban cooperative banking and credit society sectors advancing with renewed enthusiasm over past 3–4 years

Click Here to take  
**Free Mock Tests** on PracticeMock

info@practicemock.com  
011-49032737

- Launched Sahkar Digi-Pay (digital payment app for smallest urban cooperative banks) and Sahkar Digi-Loan by umbrella organization NAFCUB
- 'Delhi Declaration 2025' serves as roadmap for Urban Cooperative Banks expansion
- Four Ministry Goals: (1) Generation Sahkar—connecting youth via Tribhuvan Sahkari University; (2) capable cooperative societies; (3) one urban cooperative bank per city (population >2 lakh) in 5 years; (4) weaker sections empowerment
- NPA reduction: 2.8% → 0.06% in past 2 years; focus on operational standards, financial discipline
- Global leadership: Amul (1st position internationally, ₹90,000 crore turnover, 3.6 million farmers, 65% women); IFFCO (2nd globally, ₹41,000 crore turnover, ₹3,000 crore profit, 5 crore farmer members, 93 lakh MT urea/DAP production, nano urea/DAP exported to 65 countries)

## IE Catherine Connolly Sworn in as Ireland's 10th President

- Catherine Connolly (68) sworn in as Ireland's 10th President (11 Nov 2025), succeeding Michael D. Higgins (14-year term ended)
- Won landslide victory in October, defeating Fine Gael candidate Heather Humphreys
- Inaugurated at Dublin Castle ceremony attended by politicians, judges, dignitaries; included prayer/reflection service, speeches from president and Taoiseach Micheal Martin
- Presidency: largely ceremonial, non-executive role with significant symbolic weight in Irish public life
- Inaugural address: "I stand before you humbly and proudly... mandate to articulate vision for new republic where everyone is valued, diversity cherished, sustainable solutions urgently implemented, home a fundamental human right"
- Campaign began with small group of elected representatives and volunteers; overcame narrative doubts to win through meaningful grassroots engagement, hope, joy, courage
- Called for global conflict reflection, emphasizing Ireland's neutrality, peacekeeping heritage, positioning country as alternative-to-war promoter