

Reliance Partners with Google: 18 Months Free AI Pro for Jio Users

- Reliance Jio and Google partnered to rollout Google AI Pro (powered by Gemini 2.5 Pro) free for 18 months to eligible Jio users (506 million current base), valued at ₹35,100
- Bundle includes expanded image/video generation (Nano Banana, Veo 3.1), Notebook LM, and 2 TB cloud storage; rollout begins with 18–25-year-olds on unlimited 5G plans, expanding nationwide
- Reliance Intelligence to develop localised AI experiences reflecting India's cultural and linguistic diversity; partnership aims to make 1.45 billion Indians AI-empowered
- Reliance Cloud + Google Cloud collaboration expands access to TPU (Tensor Processing Units) hardware accelerators for sovereign compute infrastructure powering AI model training and deployment
- Reliance develops pre-built enterprise AI agents within Gemini Enterprise, strengthening India's AI backbone and competitive ecosystem

Former Indian Hockey Goalkeeper Manuel Frederick Passes Away at

78 

- Manuel Frederick, bronze medallist at 1972 Munich Olympics, passed away at 78; first athlete from Kerala to win Olympic medal, equalled only by PR Sreejesh in 2021
- Represented India from 1971–1978; featured in 1973 World Cup (Amstelveen, silver medal) and 1978 World Cup (Buenos Aires); played for ASC, HAL, Services, UP, Mohun Bagan
- Honoured with Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award (2019); remembered as fearless goalkeeper and guardian of the post

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya: Fitness Must Be National Priority for Viksit

Bharat 2047 

- Union Minister emphasised fitness as personal and collective responsibility essential to fulfil Viksit Bharat vision; viewed across three dimensions: health, business, wellness
- Highlighted India's 8% economic growth, expanding middle/upper-middle classes, and 65% population below 35 as unique opportunity to build robust fitness ecosystem
- Called for domestic manufacturing of sports goods, gym equipment, nutrition products; cited Cycling Sundays initiative showcasing threefold benefits: health, pollution control, zero fuel consumption
- Panel discussions featured 2012 Olympics medallist Saina Nehwal, Cricket World Cup winner Harbhajan Singh, filmmaker Rohit Shetty, and government officials

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Sahitya Akademi Releases Hindi Translation of Lithuanian Novel "The Last Day"

- Sahitya Akademi released the Hindi translation (Antim Din) of acclaimed novel The Last Day by Lithuanian-Ukrainian author Jaroslavas Melnikas at Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi
- First-ever Lithuanian fiction book translated to Hindi; explores themes of existential change and cultural identity, marking milestone in literary exchange between India and Lithuania
- Collaboration between Sahitya Akademi and Embassy of Lithuania; President Madhav Kaushik hailed as major effort promoting world literature in Indian languages

Archaeologist Ravindra Korisettar Honoured with Karnataka Rajyotsava Award 2025

- Prof. Ravindra Korisettar, UGC Emeritus Fellow at Karnatak University, Dharwad, awarded Karnataka Rajyotsava Award for over four decades in prehistory and geoarchaeological research
- Research published in Science (2007) and Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences (U.S.); led Multidisciplinary Kashmir Palaeoclimate Project, Prehistory and Geoarchaeology of Middle Krishna Basin, Computer Application in Archaeology
- Established prehistory museums in Ballari and Dharwad; held Charles Wallace Fellowship (Cambridge), Fulbright Visiting Scholar (Smithsonian); associated with ASI, INQUA Commissions, Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association
- Other 2025 awardees include writer H.M. Pujar, folk artists Sannaningappa Mushennagol, Somanna Dhanagonda, and multiple others from Mumbai-Karnataka region

US and Singapore Account for Over One-Third of FDI Inflows During FY25

- RBI's Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA) Census 2024-25 reveals US (20%) and Singapore (14.3%) together contributed over one-third of total FDI; other top sources include Mauritius (13.3%), UK (11.2%), Netherlands (9%)
- Total FDI inflows reached ₹68,75,931 crore (up from ₹61,88,243 crore in FY24); manufacturing sector captured 48.4% (market value), followed by services sector
- Out of 45,702 entities surveyed, 41,517 reported FDI/ODI; ~75% of inward FDI companies were subsidiaries of foreign firms with majority ownership; >97% were unlisted firms

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- Outward Direct Investment (ODI) grew faster at 17.9% versus FDI growth of 11.1%; ODI was ₹11,66,790 crore with Singapore (22.2%), US (15.4%), UK (12.8%) leading; inward-to-outward ratio dropped from 6.3 to 5.9 times, indicating Indian companies expanding globally

AXISCADES Partners with France's Cilas for Laser-Based Counter-Drone Technology FR

- AXISCADES Technologies signed MoU with Cilas S.A. (France's pioneering laser company) to jointly promote advanced Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) technologies to Indian Forces
- Partnership targets introduction of Helma-P laser weapon system—globally recognised hard-kill option deployed by NATO, Paris Olympics, and French Navy—to India
- AXISCADES to design overall system architecture, co-develop and integrate vehicle-mounted C-UAS solution incorporating Helma-P into AXISCADES' advanced command & control systems
- Aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat: local integration of Helma-P solution on Indian platform, manufacturing of Helma-P in India, and localization of maintenance equipment to ensure production sustainability

City Union Bank Secures \$50 Million IFC Commitment for MSME Green Financing

- City Union Bank secured \$50 million from International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group member, to support MSMEs in transitioning to energy-efficient and cost-effective solutions
- Financing aligns with India's net-zero 2070 target; MSMEs (contributing ~30% to India's GDP) face high energy costs; initiative reduces operational expenses, improves productivity, and strengthens long-term competitiveness
- Agreement executed 31 Oct 2025; no equity stake, special rights, or related-party arrangements involved; loan drawdown at later date, currently nil outstanding
- CUB MD Kamakodi N: initiative reinforces bank's 120+ years of service in nation-building and commitment to green financing for sustainable growth

L&T & GA-ASI Strategic Partnership: Indigenous MALE RPAS Manufacturing for Indian Armed Forces IN

- Larsen & Toubro and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) announced strategic partnership to manufacture Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems entirely in India

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- L&T set as prime bidder for 87 MALE RPAS programme under India's Ministry of Defence; GA-ASI as technology partner transferring critical know-how for combat-proven MQ-series RPAS with millions of global flight hours
- Partnership embodies Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India vision; combines GA-ASI's operational expertise with L&T's engineering, precision manufacturing, and system integration capabilities in defence and aerospace
- L&T CMD S.N. Subrahmanyam: partnership delivers state-of-the-art indigenous platforms enhancing India's defence capabilities; Dr Vivek Lall (GA-ASI CEO): exemplifies commitment to supporting India's self-reliance vision and sustainable defence ecosystem

India to Host Three Major Global Maritime Events in February 2026 at Visakhapatnam

- India will simultaneously host International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026, Exercise MILAN 2026, and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs from 15–25 February 2026 at Visakhapatnam—maiden concurrent hosting
- President Droupadi Murmu to review participating fleets on 18 Feb 2026; 55+ countries confirmed participation including USA and Russia; China, Pakistan, Turkey not invited
- INS Vikrant (indigenous aircraft carrier) featured for first time in International Fleet Review, alongside Kalvari-class submarines, Visakhapatnam-class destroyers, Nilgiri-class frigates—showcasing India's blue-water naval capabilities
- Events aligned with PM Modi's MAHASAGAR vision (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), extending SAGAR philosophy globally; demonstrates India as "Preferred Security Partner" anchored in Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and Act East Policy

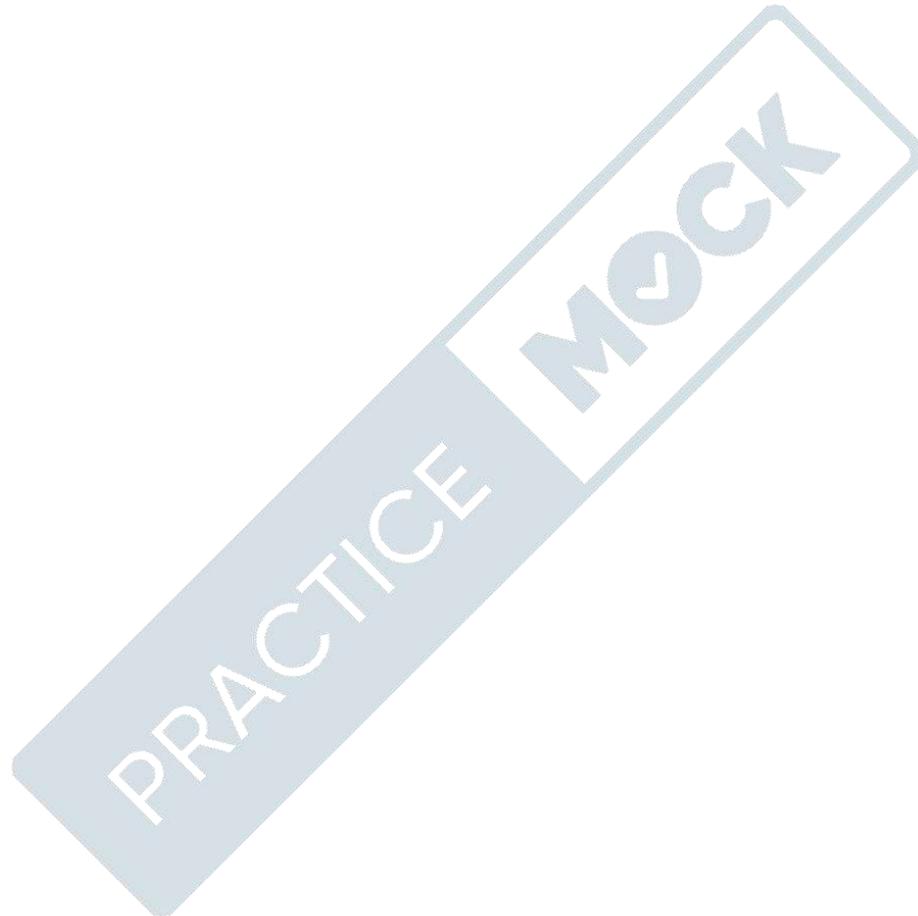
India–US Sign 10-Year Defence Partnership Framework Amid Tariff Tensions

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth signed Framework for US–India Major Defence Partnership on 31 Oct 2025 during 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Kuala Lumpur, signalling stable ties despite ongoing tariff tensions
- Framework provides unified policy vision for next decade; described as cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence; enhances coordination, information sharing, and tech cooperation
- Historical progression: 2013 Joint Declaration → 2015 Defence Framework → 2016–2020 four key agreements (LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA) → Aug 2024 SOSA + Liaison Officer MoA → Sept 2025 Yudh Abhyas exercise (Alaska) → USS Frank Cable Chennai port call

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- Active big-ticket procurements: MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, Sig Sauer rifles, M777 ultra-light howitzers, GE F-414 jet engines for LCA Mk 2, 31 MQ-9B HALE UAVs; GE F-404 deliveries for LCA Tejas Mk 1A ongoing; HAL Chairman D.K. Sunil: tariff tensions unlikely to impact defence procurements



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