

PNB MetLife Launches 360 BIZ Platform for Seamless Employee

Benefits Management

- PNB MetLife launched 360 BIZ, a digital platform simplifying group insurance and employee benefits administration for businesses of all sizes, unifying Group Term Life, Voluntary Group Life, Critical Illness cover in one seamless experience
- MD & CEO Sameer Bansal: platform empowers employees while enabling organizations to manage benefits with greater speed, accuracy, and insight, bridging gap between corporate offerings and individual needs
- Employer features: real-time dashboards for managing group benefits, insurance coverage, administrative tasks; employee engagement tools (rewards, polls, surveys); wellness-driven workforce programs
- Employee benefits: digital benefits management, instant voluntary insurance top-ups online, personalized recommendations based on life events (child's education, retirement planning), convenient digital access to policies/coverage, flexible payment (salary adjustment, cards, UPI, online banking)
- PNB MetLife: 177 branches, 20,000+ locations (bank partnerships), 36,000+ financial advisors, 585+ group relationships; portfolio covers Child Education, Family Protection, Long-Term Saving, Retirement

SBI Unveils 'SBI-STAR' Awards to Recognise Employee Excellence

Beyond Professional Spheres

- State Bank of India launched SBI-STAR (Staff Talent Acknowledgement & Recognition) on 2 Nov 2025, an annual framework recognising employee excellence in Arts, Literature, Games & Sports, Culture, Social Work, Environmental Initiatives
- SBI Chairman C.S. Setty: employees should be valued in their entirety—as professionals, creators, and citizens making a difference; initiative promotes holistic employee engagement, well-being, and organisational pride among 2.45 lakh+ employees (largest in India's BFSI sector)
- Inspiring examples: Pratiksha Tondwalkar (AGM pursuing personal aspirations), Sanvli (visually impaired clerk inspiring community), Tarachand Agarwal (CA qualified at 71 post-retirement), Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy (partially blind officer led India's Blind Cricket to 5 World Cup wins, Arjuna Award recipient)
- Selection process: self-nomination → Circle/Vertical evaluation based on defined criteria → final selection by Corporate Centre, Mumbai, ensuring fair, transparent, and structured recognition

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□ SBI Executes First Gold Trade as Special Category Client on IIBX 💰

- State Bank of India executed its first gold trade as Special Category Client (SCC) on India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) at GIFT City, marking milestone after becoming first Trading-cum-Clearing Member in 2024
- SBI Chairman C.S. Setty: move enhances efficiency in supply chain, reduces dependence on traditional channels, makes bullion imports more cost-effective and globally compliant, supports MSME jewellers and bullion dealers
- Initiative aligns with government vision to position GIFT City as global financial hub and formalise/modernise domestic bullion trade; expected to increase liquidity, improve price competitiveness, encourage other nominated banks to join IIBX as SCCs

🏠 IBM to Set Up AI Lab at AICTE HQ, Upskill Indian Talent 💡

- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) partnering with IBM to establish Artificial Intelligence lab at AICTE headquarters, providing students and faculty access to emerging-tech training and industry-standard exposure
- Lab functions as central node for upskilling in AI, data science through practical learning, certification, curriculum support for technical institutions; aligned with national efforts to build industry-ready talent pipeline in next-gen technologies
- Implementation includes selection/training of master-trainers, rollout of workshops and hackathons, accreditation via certificates; goal: equip thousands of students and faculty with skills responding to India's future-ready technical workforce vision

👤 Hinduja Group Chairman Gopichand P Hinduja Passes Away at 85 in London 📁

- Gopichand P Hinduja (known as 'GP'), Hinduja Group Chairman, died at 85 in London hospital; second of four Hinduja brothers (eldest Srichand died 2023; others: Prakash, Ashok)
- Joined family business 1950; transformed company from Indo-Middle East trading operation into transnational conglomerate spanning 11 sectors (automotive, banking/finance, IT, healthcare, real estate, power, media/entertainment); Jai Hind College graduate with honorary doctorates from University of Westminster, Richmond College
- 2025 Sunday Times Rich List: Hinduja family ranked richest in UK (₹32.3 billion pounds net worth); well-known brands include Ashok Leyland, IndusInd Bank, NXTDIGITAL Limited
- 2021 family feud: Srichand's daughter Vinoo and Shanu accused uncles of exclusion; brothers cited 2013 agreement: "everything belongs to everyone and nothing belongs to anyone"

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Zohran Mamdani Elected New York City Mayor: First Muslim, South

Asian, Africa-Born Mayor us

- Zohran Mamdani (34), elected Mayor of New York City on 5 Nov 2025, defeating Andrew Cuomo (former Governor) and Curtis Sliwa (Republican), becoming city's first Muslim mayor, first of South Asian heritage, first Africa-born mayor, and youngest in 100+ years (taking office 1 Jan 2026)
- Born 18 Oct 1991 in Kampala, Uganda (son of Ugandan scholar Mahmood Mamdani and acclaimed Indian filmmaker Mira Nair); attended Bank Street School, Bronx High School of Science, graduated Bowdoin College 2014 (Africana Studies); co-founded Students for Justice in Palestine chapter
- Progressive platform: rent freeze on stabilised units, 2 lakh public housing units, universal childcare, tuition-free education, fare-free buses, city-run grocery stores, \$30 minimum wage by 2030 funded via millionaire/corporate taxes, shifted police resources to community services, expanded public transit & bike infrastructure
- Record turnout: 2 million+ voters (highest in 50+ years); defeated Trump's false "communist" label; polarised candidacy reveals ideological divide in Democratic party—establishment centrists vs. progressive grassroots movements

SEBI Increases Bank Nifty Constituents to 14, Caps Top Stock Weight at 20%

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) notified new prudential norms for Nifty Bank Index derivatives, increasing minimum constituents from 12 to 14, capping top constituent weight at 20% (down from 33%), and top 3 combined weight at 45% (down from 62%)
- Changes reduce concentration risk, improve diversification; primarily impact HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India (current heavyweights); weights gradually reduced in 4 tranches through 31 March 2026
- First rebalancing: December 2025, followed by three more rounds; freed-up weights redistributed to other constituents; potential new entrants: YES Bank, Indian Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of India
- Other indices (BSE Bankex, NSE FinNifty): adjustments in single tranche by December 2025; change follows May 2025 SEBI circular on non-benchmark index eligibility for better risk management and investor protection

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NPCI-Razorpay Curlec Partnership: UPI Payments Live in Malaysia **MY**

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) partnered with Razorpay Curlec to enable UPI transactions in Malaysia, announced at Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025 (formalized 3 Nov 2025)
- Allows 1 million+ Indian tourists (72% YoY increase in 2024, ₹11,000+ crore spends) to make instant, secure payments to Malaysian merchants via preferred UPI-enabled apps, settled in Malaysian Ringgit
- Razorpay Curlec becomes first Malaysian payment provider supporting UPI; reduces foreign exchange costs, improves merchant acceptance, creates revenue opportunities for Malaysian businesses tapping Indian traveller demographics
- UPI now live in 8 markets: Singapore, France, UAE, Bhutan, Nepal, Mauritius, Malaysia; partnership reflects NPCI's commitment to globally connected, inclusive, interoperable payments ecosystem aligned with Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Kerala Declared Free from Extreme Poverty: First Indian State to Achieve Milestone

- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared Kerala free from extreme poverty on 1 Nov 2025 (Kerala Piravi/Formation Day), making it first Indian state and only second region globally after China to achieve this status under World Bank definition (\$3 per day on 2021 PPP)
- Achievement follows 4-year Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP) (2021–2025) targeting those left behind by previous welfare schemes; localized participatory approach using criteria: food, health, housing, income
- Historical progress: poverty declined from 59.8% in 1970s to near zero by 2025; NITI Aayog MPI 2021: Kerala's poverty rate 0.7% (lowest in India, vs. 25.01% national average); achieved through social welfare reforms, education/healthcare expansion, decentralized local governance
- Significance: reinforces Kerala's legacy in human development, reflects successful micro-level targeting, welfare convergence, bipartisan support from opposition; aligns with SDG-1 (No Poverty)

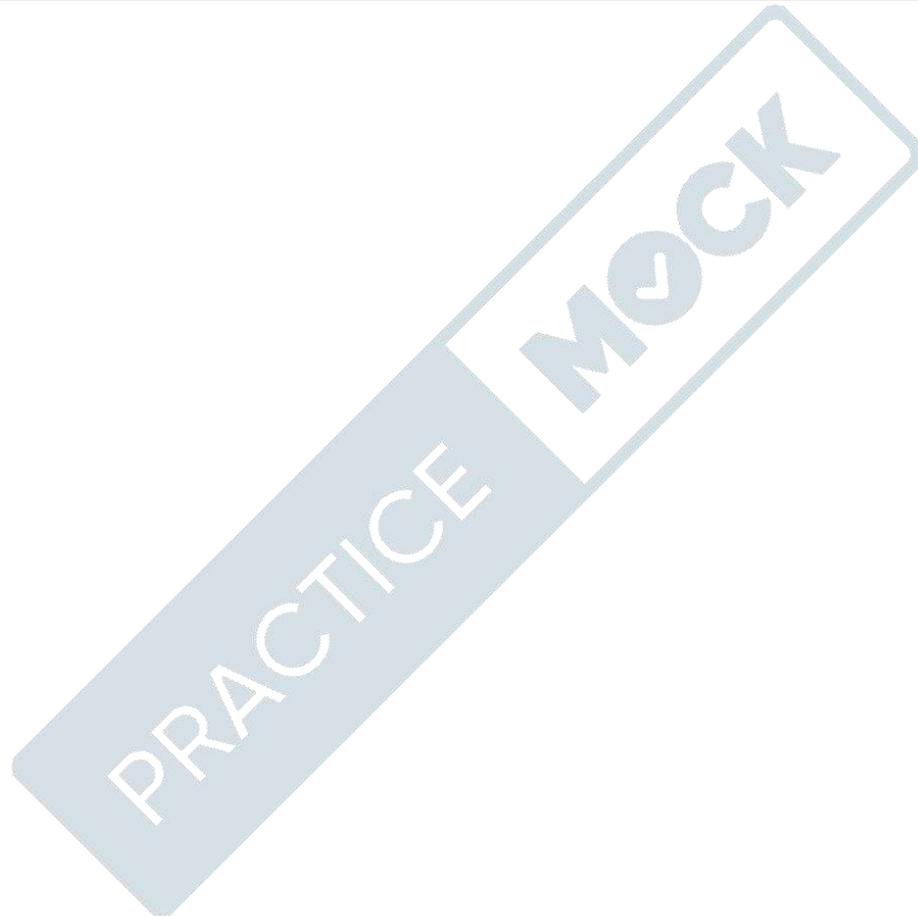
Campus Tank Uttar Pradesh: ₹50 Crore (\$6M) Startup Launchpad for Young Innovators

- Campus Tank Uttar Pradesh—India's biggest university-led startup launchpad—launched at Chandigarh University by UT Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' and MP/Chancellor Satnam Singh Sandhu in collaboration with Cube (Founders Space), Apna, Venture Catalysts, AICTE

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- Provides young entrepreneurs under 30 pledged funding of \$6 million (~₹50 crore), expert mentorship, dedicated incubation support at Chandigarh University; 1,000+ startups already joined, 10 startups secured funding post-investor presentations
- Support across journey: from ideation to seed capital, connecting founders with mentors, incubation facilities, networking opportunities; top performers receive Campus Tank Spotlight Award unlocking limitless opportunities
- CU track record: created 150+ startups since 2012 (8 women-led, spread across 17 Indian cities + 4 foreign countries); Startup India 2016 legacy: India's startup ecosystem grew from 500 (2016) → 1.76 lakh (2024); 118 unicorns; next target: 2nd largest ecosystem by 2047, 1,000 unicorns



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