

The week from 22 Sep 2025 to 28 Sep 2025

The US government has introduced the Trump Gold Card visa, offering residency to affluent immigrants for \$1 million, with a future Platinum Card option at \$5 million. The programme includes corporate options allowing businesses to transfer residency rights to employees investing \$2 million.

The Government of India has, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), signed a USD\$125 million (approx. INR 1,120 Crore) loan agreement to upgrade urban services and enhance climate resilience in Assam. The project will benefit six district headquarters—providing continuous metered water supply, advanced rainwater management and improved flood control measures.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer was awarded the prestigious 'Living Bridge' honour for his key role in successfully concluding the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA/CETA). The award, organised by the India Business Group (IBG), recognises individuals and organisations fostering India-UK cooperation in trade, culture, education, and diplomacy.

Researchers from Stanford University and the Arc Institute have, for the first time, designed a virus using Artificial Intelligence (AI) that can target and kill harmful bacteria. The team used AI to design the genome of the small bacteriophage ΦX174, generating thousands of genomic designs.

India clinched the 2025 Asia Cup title in Dubai, defeating Pakistan by five wickets. The Indian spinners led by Kuldeep Yadav (4-30) reduced Pakistan from 113/1 to 145 all out. Tilak Varma's unbeaten 69 took India past the finishing line, after the men in blue had stumbled to 20-3. India has now won 9 Asia Cups across the LOI and T20 formats.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch Vyommitra, a half-humanoid robot, on its first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission in December 2025, marking a historic milestone toward India's maiden human spaceflight planned for 2027. Vyommitra will simulate astronaut-like activities inside the spacecraft, monitor systems, and transmit real-time data to ensure safety for future human missions.

PSG forward Ousmane Dembélé was crowned winner of the 2025 Ballon d'Or, narrowly surpassing Barcelona prodigy Lamine Yamal, while Aitana Bonmatí scripted history by securing the women's award for the third straight year, reinforcing her dominance in the world of football.

Puducherry has become the first Union Territory in India to record zero maternal deaths in 2024–25 and received a Platinum Certificate from the Union government. Key initiatives included anaemia screening, expansion of PHCs, the Chief Minister's Girl Child Trust Fund Scheme, newborn insurance and empowered frontline healthcare workers.

**Compiled by
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