

The week from 14th December 2025 to 21st December 2025

The US has introduced the Gold Card scheme, a new investor linked residency scheme offering wealthy individuals and corporations a fast track to permanent residency and citizenship. Replacing the EB-5 visa, the programme sets a \$1 million entry for individuals and \$2 million for corporate applicants, with a \$15,000 vetting fee. The scheme aims to attract top talent, and channel funds into the US Treasury.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred Oman's highest civilian honour, the First Class of the Order of Oman, becoming the first Indian leader to receive it. This is his 29th international state honour and reflects India's growing global stature. The award was presented during his visit to Muscat, where India and Oman also signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

TIME Magazine has chosen the "Architects of AI" as its Person of the Year for 2025, honouring the innovators who designed and accelerated modern artificial intelligence. The recognition highlights leaders such as Sam Altman, Elon Musk, Jensen Huang, Lisa Su, Mark Zuckerberg, Demis Hassabis, Dario Amodei, and Fei-Fei Li, whose breakthroughs drove AI into mainstream adoption.

The Maharashtra government, in partnership with Microsoft, has unveiled MahaCrimeOS AI, an advanced AI-powered cybercrime investigation platform. Developed by CyberEye with MARVEL and Microsoft IDC, the system has already cut investigation time by 80% and enabled near 100% digital case registration across 23 Nagpur police stations.

Rajasthan's Siliserh Lake in Alwar district has been designated as India's 96th Ramsar site, recognising its international ecological importance. Known for rich biodiversity, the lake hosts over 100 bird and animal species and lies near Sariska Tiger Reserve. It was created in 1845 by Maharaja Vinay Singh.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Census of India 2027 with an estimated outlay of ₹11,718.24 crore. The nationwide exercise will be conducted in two phases, covering every household to generate updated demographic and socio-economic data. For the first time, the census will be largely digital, marking a major step toward modern, technology-driven governance.

Neeraj Ghaywan's film Homebound, starring Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa, and Janhvi Kapoor, has been shortlisted in the International Feature Film category for the 98th Academy Awards. Selected from entries by 86 countries, the film is among the final 15 in contention for a nomination.

Chile has elected far-right politician José Antonio Kast as its next president, after an election campaign that was dominated by themes of security, immigration and crime. Kast beat the governing coalition candidate Jeanette Jara with more than 58% of the vote in his third attempt at running for president. It marks the biggest shift to the right since the end of Chile's military dictatorship in 1990.



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