

GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT

DEFENCE



SPORTS



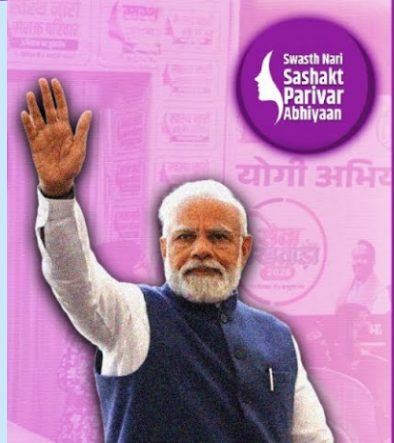
EDUCATION



HEALTH



NORTH-
EAST
CORNER



01 DEFENCE

India-Oman Defence Partnership Boosted at Joint Military Committee Meeting

India and Oman strengthened their strategic defence partnership during the **13th Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting** held in New Delhi on November 24, 2025. Officials from both nations reviewed ongoing defence engagements and explored new areas of cooperation, reflecting a shared commitment to **enhancing security collaboration in the Indian Ocean Region**. The meeting reaffirmed the long-standing trust between the two countries, grounded in decades of defence exchanges and maritime cooperation.



Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/india-oman-strengthen-defence-ties-focus-on-logistics-complex-co-development-at-jmcc-meet20251124211813/>

A key focus of the meeting was the expansion of defence-industrial cooperation. Both sides highlighted the **importance of co-development of military platforms, technology sharing, and joint production frameworks**, further emphasizing innovation-driven collaboration for advanced capability development. Emphasis was placed on **boosting indigenous manufacturing capabilities and building resilient defence supply chains**—critical priorities for both countries as they work toward greater self-reliance and long-term strategic stability.

DEFENCE-INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION THEMES

Joint Platform Development

Technology Transfer Mechanisms

Indigenous Manufacturing Push

Supply-Chain Integration

Defence R&D Collaboration

Maritime security emerged as another central theme during the discussions. The delegations identified ways to **improve interoperability between their armed forces and strengthen operational coordination in response to evolving regional challenges**, ensuring enhanced maritime readiness. Enhanced cooperation in emerging defence technologies, naval operations, and the continuation of joint exercises were also underscored as essential components for maintaining preparedness and strategic alignment in complex maritime environments.



Source: <https://globalbihari.com/india-commissions-mahe-localises-hammer-deepens-oman-ties/>

As part of the visit, the Omani delegation held separate meetings with senior Indian defence leadership. These engagements advanced **discussions on the proposed Military Logistic Complex**, a significant project aimed at enhancing shipbuilding, maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) cooperation. Both sides also explored expanding training exchanges, capacity-building initiatives, and greater collaboration across naval, air, and land forces to strengthen operational synergy.



Source: <https://globalbihari.com/india-commissions-mahe-localises-hammer-deepens-oman-ties/>

The 13th JMCC meeting marks a notable step in elevating India-Oman defence ties. Moving beyond traditional military cooperation, the two nations are now focussing on **deeper defence-industrial partnerships and strategic capability-building**. This strengthened cooperation not only **enhances bilateral readiness** but also reinforces their shared commitment to security, stability and sustainable maritime governance across the Indian Ocean Region, ensuring robust cooperation in the years ahead.

02 SPORTS

India's Women's Blind Cricket Team Wins First-Ever T20 World Cup

India created sporting history by winning the inaugural Women's T20 World Cup for the Blind, defeating Nepal by seven wickets in the final held in Colombo. The match marked a major milestone in the advancement of inclusive sports and highlighted the growing strength of women's blind cricket on the global stage. Nepal, opting to bat first, set a target of 114/5 in their 20 overs, but India's disciplined bowling restricted them from building momentum.



Source: <https://www.icc-cricket.com/news/history-made-as-india-claim-inaugural-blind-women-s-t20-world-cup>

India's chase was clinical and confident. The team reached 117/3 in just 12.1 overs, completing the victory with 47 balls to spare. The innings was anchored by an **exceptional performance from opener Phula Saren, who scored an unbeaten 44 off only 27 balls**. Her explosive knock, featuring four boundaries, showcased both precision and power, securing India's dominant win. Her contribution with the ball earlier in the match also demonstrated her all-round brilliance.



Source: <https://www.thehawk.in/news/sports/i-dont-want-gifts-or-fame-blind-cricket-t20-wc-winner-phula-saren-pleads-for-a-roof-for-her-family>

Throughout the tournament, **India remained unbeaten, delivering commanding performances against teams such as Sri Lanka, Australia, Pakistan, and the United States.** Their consistency reflected the squad's strong preparation and cohesion, as well as their ability to read match situations effectively. The government acknowledged the championship victory as a historic moment for the sport, marking the **first global title ever contested in this category.**



Source: <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/sports-games/3709910-indian-womens-blind-cricket-team-honored-for-historic-victory>

Blind cricket follows distinctive rules that enable participation without sight, including the use of a ball fitted with ball bearings to produce sound, underarm bowling with a mandatory bounce, and fielders using audio cues to indicate position. Despite these modifications, the sport demands exceptional hearing acuity, fast reflexes, and strategic coordination—qualities the Indian team demonstrated throughout the tournament.

IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

SOUND-BASED BALL	MODIFIED BOWLING STYLE	AUDIO POSITIONING BY FIELDERS	ADAPTED COMMUNICATION RULES	ENHANCED SENSORY SKILLS
Ball with metal bearings that guides players through sound	Underarm bowling with a required bounce for safer play	Fielders use claps or calls to indicate their location	Players use clear verbal cues to coordinate movements	Relies on sharp hearing, quick reflexes, and coordination

India's triumph in the first-ever Women's Blind T20 World Cup is more than a sporting achievement; it is a powerful message of empowerment and inclusion. The victory is expected to **inspire young visually impaired athletes across the country** and strengthen the push for more structured support, recognition, and investment in disability sports.

HOW AG GROUP CAN HELP YOU

To provide assistance in development of sports

[Click Here](#)

03 EDUCATION

Record-Breaking Growth in Indian Institutions Mark QS Asia Rankings 2026

India has recorded its strongest-ever performance in the **QS Asia University Rankings 2026**, marking a major milestone for the country's higher education sector. A total of 294 Indian institutions have been featured this year, with 137 universities entering the rankings for the first time. This sharp rise reflects a decade of sustained efforts to enhance academic capacity and **strengthen research output across the nation**.



India shines as **research hub** as representation rises by more than **1,000%** in last decade

- From 24 universities in 2016 to 294 in 2026 – a 1,125% increase.
- India dominates Papers per Faculty indicator, with 5 universities ranked among Asia's top 10 and 28 among the top 50.
- This extraordinary growth outpaces every other nation in Asia and reflects the impact of India's National Education Policy (NEP) and its expanding research and innovation ecosystem.

QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026 Released 4 November 2025

Source: <https://ddindia.co.in/2025/11/pm-modi-hails-record-surge-in-indian-universities-in-q-s-asia-rankings-2026/>

The government praised the achievement, calling it a significant rise and emphasizing its **commitment to quality education, innovation, and academic reforms**. The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** played a crucial role by encouraging multidisciplinary learning and integrating research-intensive practices across institutions. It also promoted greater institutional autonomy, enabling campuses to modernize academic structures and expand global collaborations essential for long-term higher education competitiveness.

Several leading institutions reinforced India's regional standing, with seven universities placed in Asia's top 100, reflecting their rising academic stature and expanding

Features of NEP 2020

Primary Education (K-12)

Structure & Access

- Universal access pre-primary to Grade 12
- 5+3+3+4 curricular structure
- Quality early childhood care (3-6 years)

Language & Curriculum

- Mother tongue instruction until Grade 5-8
- No separation between arts/sciences, academic/vocational
- National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

Assessment & Quality

- Board exams twice yearly
- PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) assessment center
- State School Standards Authority (SSSA)

Equity & Teachers

- Focus on disadvantaged groups
- Gender Inclusion Fund
- Merit-based teacher recruitment
- Vocational education integration

Higher Education

Access & Structure

- 50% GER target
- Multidisciplinary education with multiple entry/exit
- Academic Bank of Credit

Governance

- Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) with 4 wings
- Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs)
- National Research Foundation (NRF)

Programs

- Common entrance exam (NTA)
- 4-year integrated B.Ed
- Professional education integration

Technology & Innovation

- National Educational Technology Forum (NETF)
- Technology integration across all levels

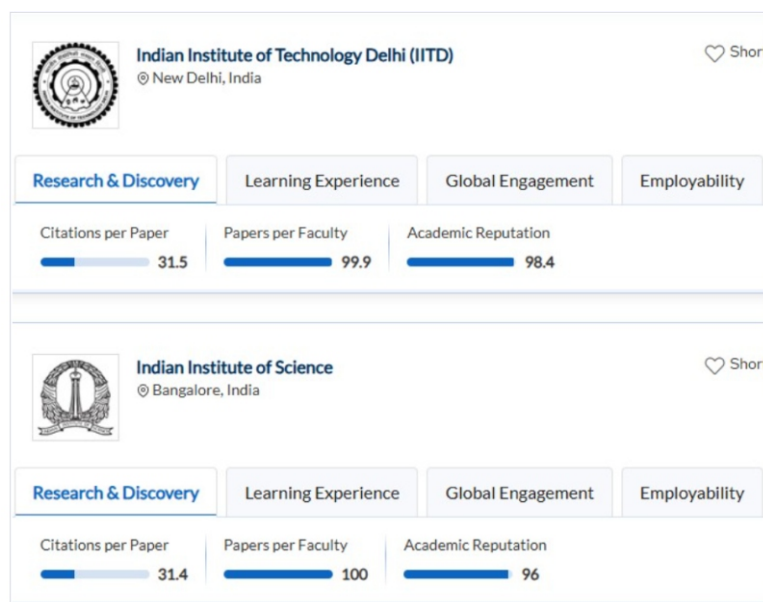
Quality & Funding

- 'Light but tight' regulation
- Anti-commercialization measures
- 6% GDP investment target
- 100% adult literacy
- Internationalization initiatives

Source: Ministry of Education

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotId=154714&ModuId=3®=3&lang=2>

influence across the continent. **IIT Delhi led the Indian entries**, followed by IISc Bangalore, IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, and the University of Delhi. A total of **19 universities achieved their highest-ever ranks**, showing consistent improvements across several academic disciplines and demonstrating stronger competition with other top-performing Asian institutions.



India performed strongly on research-linked indicators, emerging as Asia's top performer in Papers per Faculty and Staff with PhD, highlighting the **growing emphasis on high-quality scholarship nationwide**. Institutions such as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology in West Bengal were noted for **exceptional research productivity**, while universities like BITS Pilani, Shoolini University, Chandigarh University, and OP Jindal Global University **recorded meaningful advances** driven by targeted investments and enhanced faculty development initiatives.

Source: <https://education.sakshi.com/en/colleges/education-news/qs-asia-rankings-2026-list-top-indian-universities-184680>



These outcomes reveal a landscape undergoing accelerated development and structural advancement, supported by expanding institutional capacity, improved faculty strengths, and a growing research ecosystem. As **India becomes Asia's second most represented country in the 2026 rankings**, the momentum highlights its progression toward a more globally competitive, innovation-driven higher education landscape.

04 HEALTH

Nation Achieves Three Guinness World Records Under Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

India has marked a historic milestone by securing **three Guinness World Records** under the nationwide **Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan**, an initiative aimed at promoting women's health and strengthening family well-being. Launched to enhance awareness on preventive healthcare, the campaign has witnessed exceptional public participation, turning it into a **national movement for women-centric health outreach**.

The first recognition was awarded for the **highest number of people registering on a health-related platform in a single month**, with more than 3.21 crore registrations recorded. The second record honoured India for achieving the **most online breast cancer screening pledges in one week**, drawing participation from nearly 9.94 lakh individuals. The third title was earned for the **largest number of people registering online for vital signs screening at the state level within a week**, touching over 1.25 lakh enrollments. Together, these milestones highlight the country's growing commitment to accessible, community-driven healthcare.



Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/pm-modi-lauds-swasth-nari-sashakt-parivar-abhiyaan-for-creating-three-guinness-world-records/>



Source: <https://www.tripuraindia.in/update/index/campaigns-like-swasth-nari-sashakt-parivar-abhiyaan-to-empower-transform-women-s-lives-pm>

Implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Abhiyaan ran from mid-September to early October and aligned with the government's broader focus on preventive healthcare. **The initiative worked extensively across districts, mobilising women, adolescents, and families to undergo early screening for key health indicators.** It also leveraged technology to ensure that large-scale digital registrations could support early diagnosis and timely medical intervention.

DIGITAL PARTICIPATION DRIVING PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE

PLI scheme
worth
Rs.76,000 crore
approved

India & US
Team Up for
Semiconductor
fab plant in
Kolkata

5
Semiconductor
plants
approved for
construction

Attracted
investments
worth over
Rs.1.5 lakh
crore

A hallmark of the campaign was its collaborative framework. **More than 20 ministries**, several central institutions, medical colleges, state health departments, and private organisations participated, making it a **whole-of-government and whole-of-society effort**. Lakhs of health camps were conducted across the country, enabling screenings, awareness sessions, and community-level engagement without barriers of geography or access.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/union-health-ministry-sets-three-guinness-world-records-under-womens-health-campaign/article70226832.ece>

The government praised the achievement, describing it as a powerful testament to India's collective commitment to women's health and empowerment. The three Guinness World Records, earned through widespread public participation, reaffirm the message that **healthy women are the foundation of stronger families and a stronger nation** under the vision of a "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar."

HOW AG GROUP CAN BE A HELP

To offer assistance regarding the master plan for health infrastructure
[Click Here](#)

05 NORTH-EAST CORNER

Gangtok Hosts 13th International Tourism Mart 2025

The 13th International Tourism Mart (ITM) 2025, hosted in Gangtok from November 13–16, concluded as a major success, reaffirming the North East's growing prominence in India's tourism landscape. Organised by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim, the event brought together representatives from all eight Northeastern states, industry stakeholders, travel operators, and international delegates. The Mart served as a dynamic platform to highlight the region's cultural richness, natural beauty, and emerging tourism opportunities.



Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/13th-international-tourism-mart-inaugrated-at-gangtok-sikkim/>

The inauguration took place at the **Sikkim Armed Police Ground, Pangthang**, where senior leaders from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, the Government of Sikkim, and the Ministry of Tourism marked the opening. A video message from the Union Tourism Minister's office reiterated the Centre's commitment to **strengthening the North East as a unified tourism circuit**. Participation from state tourism departments, MPs, and senior officials underscored the event's strategic significance for regional tourism development.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2191108®=3&lang=1>

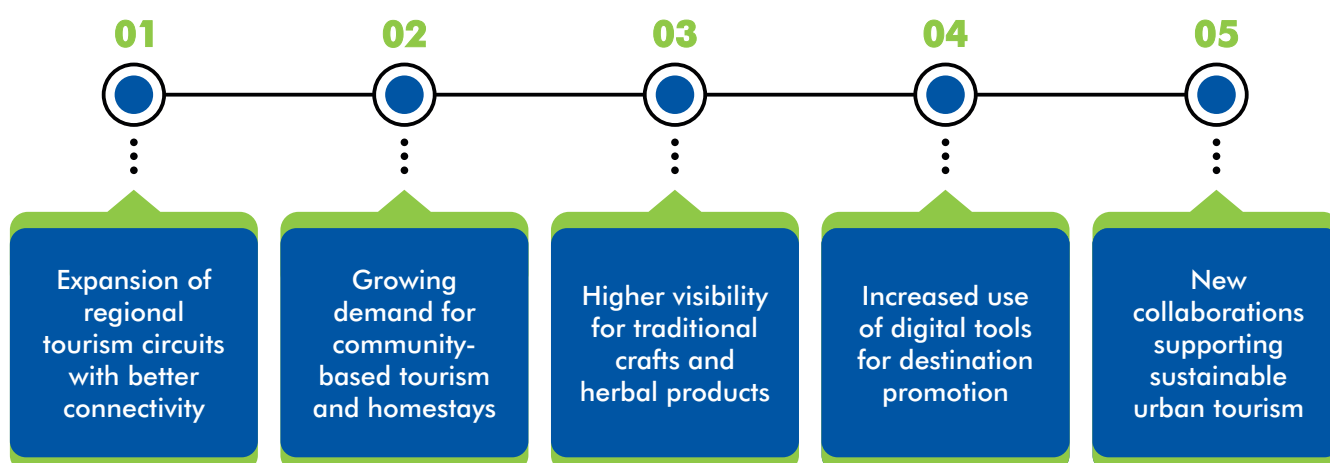
A major attraction was the vibrant **“North East Bazaar,”** where artisans, entrepreneurs, and self-help groups showcased traditional crafts, textiles, herbal products, and locally made goods. The stalls reflected the entrepreneurial drive and cultural heritage of the region. Alongside the Bazaar, **multiple technical sessions and B2B meetings were held,** focussing on cinematic tourism, homestays, digital innovations, youth-led enterprises, and sustainable tourism practices. These sessions encouraged fresh collaborations and strengthened market linkages across the region.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2191108®=3&lang=1>

Delegates were also taken on curated visits to **key attractions around Gangtok, including monasteries, cultural centres, and natural sites.** These tours provided first-hand insights into Sikkim's spiritual landscapes, biodiversity, and heritage architecture, enabling participants to understand the diverse tourism offerings that the North East can collectively promote.

KEY DRIVERS STRENGTHENING NORTH EAST TOURISM AT ITM 2025



Adding an international dimension, the Gangtok Municipal Corporation shared goodwill messages from its European smart-city partners, highlighting future opportunities for collaboration on sustainable urban tourism and green mobility. Overall, ITM 2025 showcased a confident and forward-looking North East, marking a significant step toward positioning the region as a global tourism destination built on sustainability, cultural integrity, and economic opportunity.

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