

8. Short News

1. Asian Development Bank (ADB) Financing India Projects

India and ADB signed agreements for over \$800 million in loans and a grant. To support development projects in four states (Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam).

Projects Funded

Maharashtra – Power Distribution Enhancement Programme (\$500 million)– Aims to deliver daytime solar electricity to approximately 9 lakh farmers by 2028. Includes upgrading substations, distribution lines, and installing a 500 MWh battery storage system.

Madhya Pradesh – Indore Metro Rail Project (\$190.6 million)– Supports the construction of an 8.62-km underground metro corridor with seven stations. Targets improved urban mobility, multimodal integration, and operational readiness by January 2030.

Gujarat – Skills Development Programme (\$109.97 million)– Focuses on upgrading 11 mega ITIs and setting up Centers of Excellence. Expands industry–academia partnerships through a hub-and-spoke model.

Assam – SWIFT Project (\$1 million Technical Assistance)– Aims to enhance biodiversity and boost fisher livelihoods. Prepares institutional frameworks for the Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) project.

About ADB–

Role– Regional development bank for inclusive, sustainable growth in Asia-Pacific.

Established– 1966; HQ– Manila, Philippines.

Members– 69 countries (50 from Asia-Pacific).

Shareholding– Japan & USA (largest ~15.6% each), China (~6.5%), India (~6.3%).

India & ADB– India is a founding member (1966) and a major borrower. Focus Areas– Transport, energy, urban development, and industrial corridors (NICDP).

2. Schrödinger's Economy

India's GDP data presents a paradox– High Real GDP growth vs. Slowing Nominal GDP growth. Dubbed "Schrödinger's economy" as it seems both booming and weakening simultaneously.

The Paradox

Real GDP– Strong growth (8.2% in Q2).

Nominal GDP– Declining trend (10.7% in Mar → 8.7% in Sep).

Origin– Based on physicist Erwin Schrödinger's thought experiment (a cat that is both alive and dead until observed).

Meaning– An economy showing contradictory signals (weak and strong at the same time), making assessment difficult.

3. Burtele Foot

3.4-million-year-old fossils from Ethiopia identified as *Australopithecus deyiremeda*.

Key Findings

Coexistence– Proves *A. deyiremeda* lived alongside *A. afarensis* (Lucy's species) between 3.5–3.3 million years ago.

Evolution– Shows early human evolution was not linear; multiple species lived simultaneously with distinct adaptations.

Features of *A. deyiremeda*–

Bipedalism– Walked upright but retained an opposable big toe (good for climbing).

Gait– Pushed off from the second toe (unlike modern humans/ *A. afarensis* who use the big toe).

Diet– Ate trees/shrubs (unlike the broader diet of *A. afarensis*).

4. Mannar Uruli

PM praised Mannar Uruli in *Mann Ki Baat*, boosting artisan morale in Kerala.

About the Vessel-

Origin- Traditional bronze kitchen vessel from Mannar, Kerala.

Material- High-grade bronze; safe for cooking and non-hazardous.

Utility- Acts like a natural casserole (retains heat for hours).

Usage- Used for making *payasam*, deep-frying, and slow cooking.

Sizes- Ranges from 10 to 24 inches.

5. India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2025

Event Details

Edition- 5th Edition held in New Delhi.

Theme- "Advancing Internet Governance for an Inclusive and Sustainable Viksit Bharat."

Sub-Themes- Inclusive Digital Future (Rural connectivity). Digital Infrastructure (Cybersecurity, DPI). AI for People (Ethical AI).

About IIGF

Nature- National chapter of the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF).

Established- 2021.

Structure- Multi-stakeholder model (Govt, Industry, Civil Society, Academia).

Goal- Promote open, trusted, inclusive, and secure internet governance in India.

About UN-IGF-

Origin- Established by UN Secretary-General in 2006 (post-Tunis Agenda).

Role- Platform for dialogue on digital issues; does not produce binding outcomes.

6. INS Taragiri

Delivered to Indian Navy on Nov 28, 2025.

Type- Project 17A Nilgiri-class frigate (Stealth Guided-Missile Frigate).

Builder- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilding Ltd (MDL).

Key Features-

Design- Indigenous design by Warship Design Bureau (WDB).

Propulsion- **CODOG** (Combined Diesel or Gas) for speed and agility.

Weapons- BrahMos Missile, MRSAM, 76mm Gun, Anti-submarine rockets.

Tech- Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS); high stealth features.

Significance- 75% Indigenous Content (Aatmanirbharta). Boosts Navy's multi-mission capabilities.

About Project 17A-

Successor- To the Shivalik-class (Project 17).

Goal- Build 7 stealth frigates (4 by MDL, 3 by GRSE).

First Ship- *INS Nilgiri* (Launched 2019).

Project 17A Ships Status -

Ship Name	Builder	Status (Nov 2025)	Unique Feature
INS Nilgiri	MDL	Commissioned	First of class; composite superstructure.
INS Himgiri	GRSE	Commissioned	First GRSE P-17A; modular construction.
INS Udaygiri	MDL	Commissioned	Fastest integration cycle.
INS Taragiri	MDL	Delivered	Next-gen CODOG propulsion.
INS Mahendragiri	MDL	Launched	Highest indigenous content (~75%).