

Newsletter

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

INDIA TO HOST 20TH UNESCO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE SESSION AT RED FORT



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India will host the 20th session of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage-ICH from 08-13 December 2025 of this month at Red Fort in New Delhi. India has nominated Diwali, the festival of light, brotherhood, compassion, and collective celebration, as its submission for the UNESCO Intangible heritage list this year. The six day event aims at Examining nominations submitted by States Parties for inscription on the UNESCO ICH Lists, reviewing the status of existing elements and providing international assistance for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

[READ MORE: 20TH UNESCO ICH](#)

INDIA ASSUMES CHAIRSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL IDEA COUNCIL FOR 2026

Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar has assumed the chairship of the council of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for 2026. India has been elected as the new chair of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for 2026. India is one of the 14 founding member states of the organisation and has consistently contributed to the organisation's governance, democratic discourse, and institutional initiatives.



In his acceptance speech, CEC Kumar highlighted the scale of India's democratic exercise, noting the country has over 900 million electors across 28 states and 8 Union Territories. He also pointed out that India has conducted 18 general elections to Parliament and more than 400 elections to State Legislatures since independence in 1947.

[READ MORE: INDIA ASSUMES CHAIRSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL IDEA COUNCIL FOR 2026](#)

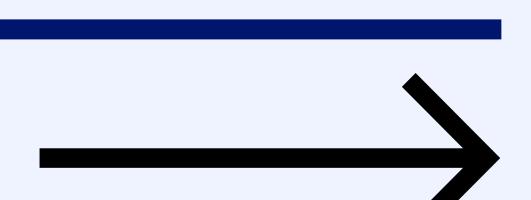
INDIA REITERATES STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING SRI LANKA IN PROVIDING RESCUE AND RELIEF TO AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



In the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwa, as relief operations continue in Sri Lanka, the Indian Air Force has simultaneously intensified domestic support efforts. An IAF C-17 aircraft airlifted National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams and equipment from Pune and Vadodara to Chennai, enabling the rapid deployment of more than 300 NDRF personnel along with approximately 35 tonnes of critical relief gear.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephonic conversation with the President of Sri Lanka, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, and reiterated India's steadfast commitment to supporting Sri Lanka in providing rescue and relief to affected communities. President Dissanayake expressed his deep gratitude for India's assistance in the wake of the disaster, commending the swift deployment of rescue teams and relief material. He also conveyed the appreciation of the people of Sri Lanka for India's timely and effective response.

[READ MORE: INDIA-SRI LANKA](#)



INDIA SENDS VACCINES TO SUPPORT AFGHANISTAN'S HEALTHCARE

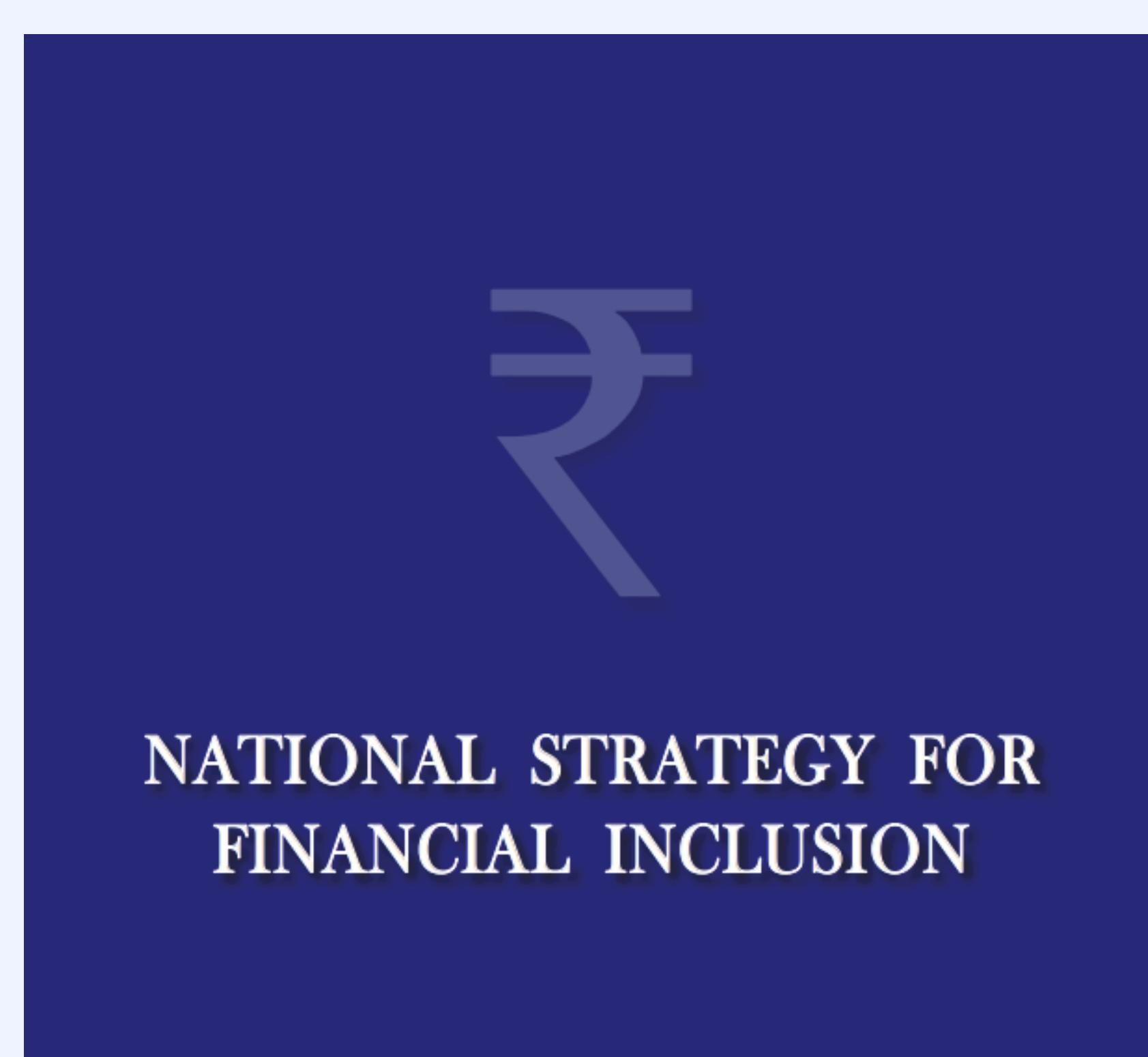
India has provided essential healthcare support to Afghanistan to help it prevent Influenza and Meningitis in the country. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal informed that India delivered more than 63 thousand 700 doses of influenza and meningitis vaccines to Kabul. Mr Jaiswal said that India is reaffirming its commitment to support Afghanistan's public health. Earlier, on the 28th of last month, the government had also delivered 73 tonnes of life-saving medicines, vaccines, and essential supplements to Kabul to meet Afghanistan's urgent medical needs.



[READ MORE: INDIA SENDS VACCINES TO SUPPORT AFGHANISTAN'S HEALTHCARE](#)

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

RBI UNVEILS NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION 2025-30



India's Central Bank - Reserve Bank of India released the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion: 2025-30. The framework lays down five strategic objectives towards elevating the state of financial inclusion in the country. The action points include improving the availability and use of equitable, responsible, suitable, and affordable bouquet of financial services to achieve financial safety and financial security for households and micro enterprises. It also aims to adopt a gender-sensitive approach for women-led financial inclusion and differentiated strategies for improving financial resilience of households, especially for the underserved and vulnerable segments.

[READ MORE: NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION 2025-30](#)

FITCH RAISES INDIA'S FY26 GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 7.4% ON STRONG CONSUMPTION, TAX REFORMS

Fitch Ratings revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 7.4%, up from its earlier estimate of 6.9%, citing strong domestic demand and the positive impact of recent tax reforms. The global rating agency said private consumption remains the primary engine of growth this fiscal year, supported by "strong real income dynamics, improved consumer sentiment, and the benefits of goods and services tax reforms." It added that robust household spending has kept economic momentum firm despite external challenges. For FY27, Fitch expects growth to moderate to 6.4%, with domestic demand continuing to drive the economy. Public investment is likely to soften, while private investment is expected to strengthen in the second half of FY27.



[READ MORE: FITCH RAISES INDIA'S FY26 GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 7.4%](#)

FDI INFLOW UP RECORD 16% IN 1ST HALF THIS FISCAL, FTAS SIGNED WITH 15 NATIONS



India's total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow reported during the first half of FY 2025-26 (US\$ 50.36 billion) has increased by 16% compared to year-ago period (US\$ 43.37 billion) - highest ever for first half of a financial year, the Indian Parliament was informed. Gross FDI inflows have increased from over US\$ 34 billion in 2012-13 to over US\$ 80 billion in 2024-25, said Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. As per official data, India recorded a strong rebound in FDI in the second quarter of the current financial year, with total inflows rising over 18% year-on-year to US\$ 35.18 billion during April-September 2025.

[READ MORE: FDI INFLOW UP RECORD 16% IN 1ST HALF THIS FISCAL](#)

INDUSTRY & SECTORAL INSIGHTS

INDIA'S SMARTPHONE EXPORTS TO US JUMP OVER 300% IN OCTOBER

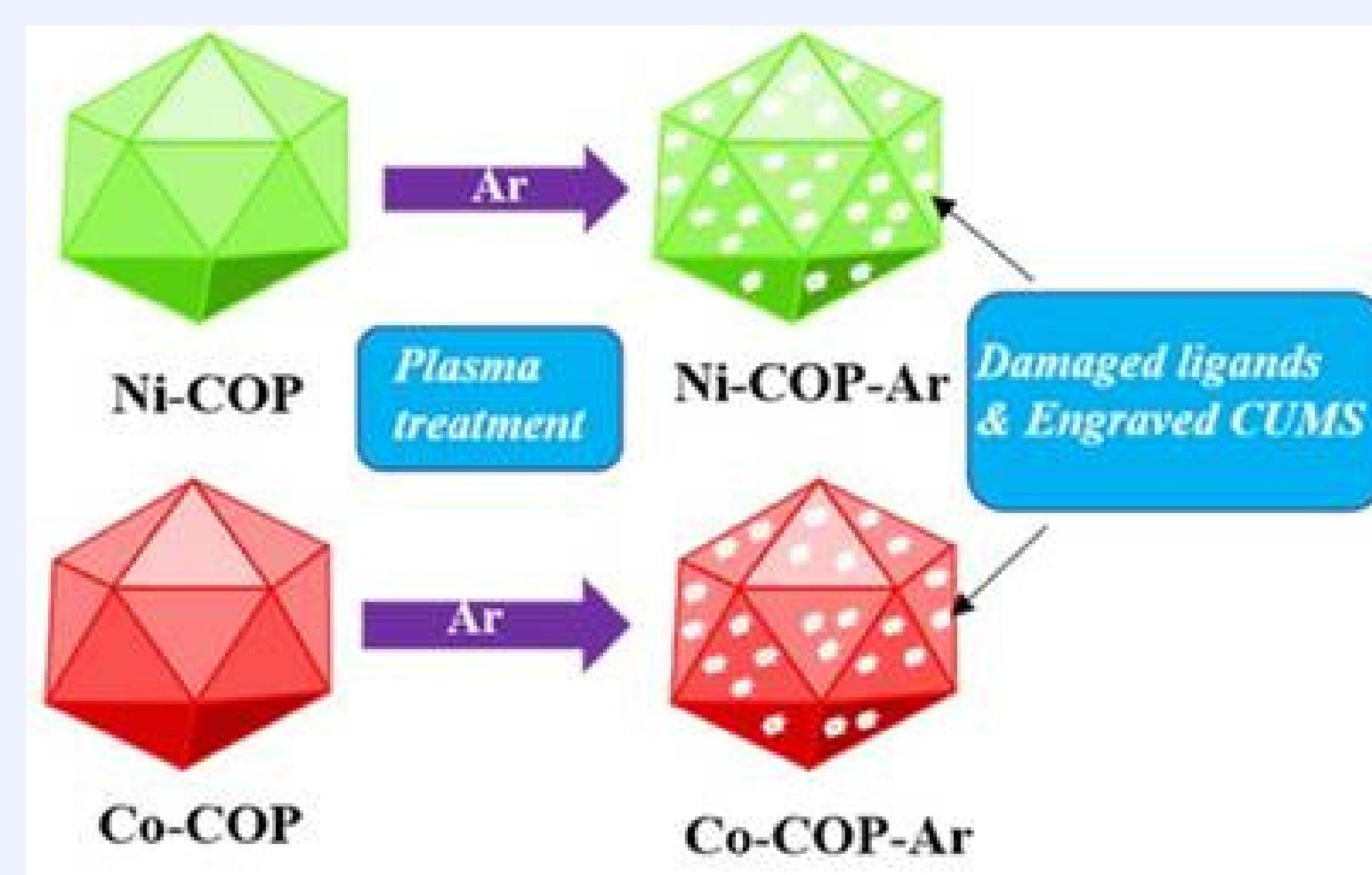
India's smartphone exports to the US surged over three-fold year-on-year (YoY) to US\$ 1.47 billion in October 2025, government data showed. In the same month a year ago, India exported smartphones worth US\$ 0.46 billion to the US. According to the data, smartphone exports to the United States have seen a sharp rebound this fiscal, touching US\$ 10.78 billion during the April-October period, up from US\$ 3.60 billion in the same period last year. Globally, India's smartphone exports posted strong gains as well, rising 49.35% to US\$ 15.95 billion in April-October 2025 compared to US\$ 10.68 billion a year earlier.



[READ MORE: INDIA'S SMARTPHONE EXPORTS TO US JUMP OVER 300% IN OCTOBER](#)

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

INDIAN SCIENTISTS DEVELOP NEW TECHNIQUE TO BOOST CATALYSTS FOR CLEAN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION



Scientists at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) in Bengaluru have developed an innovative method to enhance the performance of catalysts used in water splitting, a key process in producing clean hydrogen. The findings, published in ACS Applied Nano Materials, demonstrate a promising and cost-effective route to improving catalyst performance for water splitting. Scientists say the approach could accelerate progress toward scalable, sustainable and affordable hydrogen energy, a key pillar of global clean-energy goals.

[READ MORE: CATALYSTS FOR CLEAN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION](#)

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

NITI AAYOG & IBM UNVEIL ROADMAP TO MAKE INDIA A TOP-3 QUANTUM ECONOMY BY 2047

India's NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub, in partnership with International Business Machines-IBM, has released a national roadmap to transform India into one of the world's top-three quantum economies by 2047. The plan aims to build home grown quantum computing hardware and software, foster at least 10 globally competitive quantum and capture a major share of the global quantum software and services market. It also envisages applying quantum technologies across key sectors such as defence, energy, healthcare, logistics, and finance with hopes of boosting security, efficiency, and innovation nationwide.

[READ MORE: ROADMAP TO MAKE INDIA A TOP-3 QUANTUM ECONOMY BY 2047](#)



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