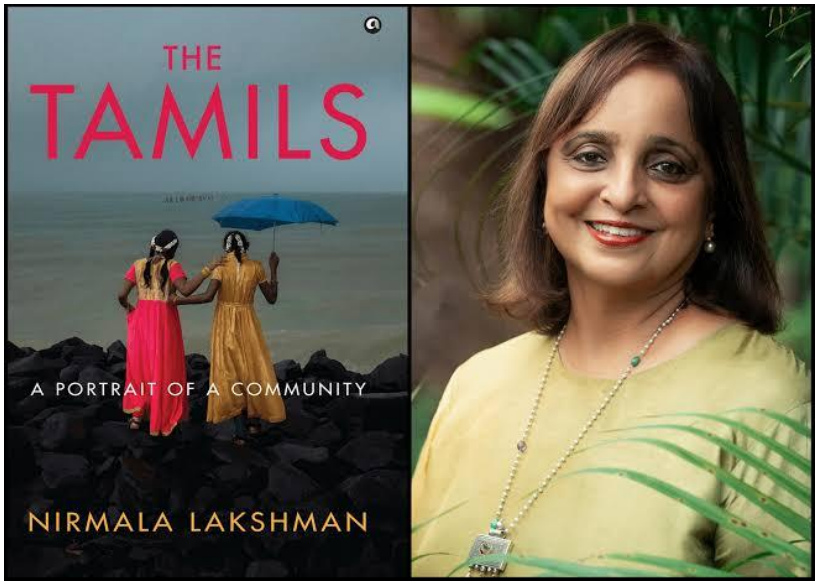
Daily Current Affairs
05 November 2026

Nirmala Lakshman's Book Wins Sharjah Award

- Nirmala Lakshman's book, The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community, won the Sharjah Award for Best International Non-Fiction Book on 4 November 2026.
- Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairperson of the Sharjah Book Authority, presented the award. The category is part of the broader Sharjah International Book Fair Awards, which recognise distinguished English-language non-fiction works.
- Published by Aleph Book Company in January 2025, the book examines the history, society and culture of the Tamil people, tracing their evolution across centuries and influence beyond geographical borders. It has sold several thousand copies since publication. Lakshman is an author, journalist and Director of The Hindu Group.



Tamil Nadu Tops NITI Aayog's India S&T Scoreboard

- Tamil Nadu was the leading state in terms of publishing research in 2024-25 according to the India Science and Technology (S&T) Scoreboard prepared by

NITI Aayog. Up next are UP and Maharashtra. Tamil Nadu also led in the number of patents applied for. Maharashtra and Karnataka completed the top 3.

- The interactive scoreboard combines information regarding research, innovation, patents and science and technology infrastructure in each state and Union Territory of India to help create evidence-based policies.
- The India Science and Technology (S&T) Scoreboard is an interactive platform created by NITI Aayog to give an overview of India's science, technology and innovation landscape.
- It collates data from various sources so that each state and Union Territory can be compared. It has been created so that evidence-based policies can be produced.

Rank	State	Research Publications
1	Tamil Nadu	44,611
2	Uttar Pradesh	29,298
3	Maharashtra	28,947



Tammer Tournament 2026

- India topped the medal tally with 14 medals at the Tammer Tournament 2026 in Tampere, Finland. The Indian boxing team won 4 golds, 2 silvers and 8 bronze medals. Arundhati Chaudhary, Aarti Dhariyal, Ankushita Boro and Pawan Bartwal won gold medals in their respective weight classes.
- Gold Medal Winners
- Aarti Dhariyal (women's 54kg) – Gold medal
- Ankushita Boro (women's 65kg) – Gold medal
- Arundhati Chaudhary (women's 70kg) – Gold medal
- Pawan Bartwal (men's 55kg) – Gold medal
- The Tammer Tournament is an annual international tournament organized by Tampere Boxing Association (Finland). This tournament has been held since 1977 to give international exposure to boxers.



Edmund Richardson Wins 2026 Baillie Gifford Prize

- A British academic has been awarded the 2026 Baillie Gifford Prize for Nonfiction for his book Alexander: God, King, Man, which outlines the life and exploits of Alexander the Great. Edmund Richardson was presented with the prize and £50,000 ($67,000) at a ceremony held in London.
- Title: Alexander: God, King, Man
- Author: Edmund Richardson

- Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing
- Summary: Details the military exploits, political career and personal life of Alexander the Great.
- The Baillie Gifford Prize is one of the most prestigious prizes in British literature. It recognises excellence in nonfiction books written in English. The books cover a wide range of topics including history, current affairs, politics, science, sports, travel, biographies, autobiographies and the arts.
- Established in 1999
- Origianlly named the Samuel Johnson Prize for Nonfiction
- Renamed in 2016
- Currently sponsored by Baillie Gifford
- £50,000 prize
- Open to authors of any nationality
- Judged by an independent panel



Harmanpreet Singh Scores 250th International Goal

- Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh scored his 250th international goal on November 5, 2026, during the Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026 semifinal against South Korea at the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali.
- Harmanpreet scored from a penalty corner in the ninth minute. He became the second Indian men's hockey player to reach 250 international goals; Dhyan Chand holds the record with 570. Hockey India congratulated the captain on the achievement.

- India defeated South Korea 8–1 to reach the tournament final. India is set to face Japan in Mohali at 7 pm IST on Thursday, November 5.
- **Player role**: Harmanpreet Singh plays as a defender and specialises in penalty corners, combining a defensive position with a set-piece attacking role.
- **Corner defence**: At a penalty corner, no more than five defenders, including the goalkeeper, may start behind the back line; the others must stay beyond halfway.
- **Shot sequence**: A penalty-corner attack cannot take a shot until the ball has first travelled outside the circle.
- **Tournament format**: The Men's Asian Champions Trophy features six leading Asian teams in a round-robin format and has been held annually by the Asian Hockey Federation since 2011.



India Plans World's Highest Railway Station

- India plans to build a railway station at about 5,256 metres beneath Tanglang La pass on the proposed 489-km broad-gauge Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway line.
- The line is intended to connect Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh with Leh in Ladakh. If built at this elevation, the station would surpass China's Tanggula railway station, at around 5,068 metres, as the world's highest.
- If built at this elevation, the station would surpass China's Tanggula railway station, at around 5,068 metres, as the world's highest.
- The Ministry of Defence has identified the project as strategically important for improving connectivity to Ladakh. Its estimated cost is about Rs 1.31 lakh crore, with nearly 270 km of the route expected to run through tunnels.

- The railway ministry said the survey was complete and the Detailed Project Report had been prepared. The proposed alignment passes through Sundernagar, Mandi, Manali, Sissu, Darcha, Keylong, Sarchu, Pang, Rumtse, Upshi and Kharu before reaching Leh.
- Recent reports give 5,256 metres as the proposed station elevation, while some earlier reports, including reports from November 2026 and October 2018, put the line's highest point or station at about 5,359–5,360 metres.
- In October 2026, the Himachal Pradesh High Court quashed a preliminary land-acquisition notification for a related 63-km line, citing non-compliance with statutory requirements.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. Who won the Sharjah Award for Best International Non-Fiction Book on 4 November 2026?

A) Arundhati Roy
B) Nirmala Lakshman
C) Shashi Tharoor
D) Sudha Murty

Answer: B) Nirmala Lakshman

Q2. Which book by Nirmala Lakshman received the Sharjah Award?

A) The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community
B) India: A Cultural Journey
C) The People of South India
D) A History of Tamil Literature

Answer: A) The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community

Q3. Which state topped NITI Aayog's India Science and Technology Scoreboard in research publications for 2024–25?

A) Uttar Pradesh
B) Maharashtra
C) Tamil Nadu
D) Karnataka

Answer: C) Tamil Nadu

Q4. How many research publications were recorded by Uttar Pradesh in the India S&T Scoreboard for 2024–25?

A) 28,947
B) 29,298
C) 44,611
D) 31,250

Answer: B) 29,298

Q5. How many medals did India win at the Tammer Tournament 2026 in Finland?

A) 10
B) 12
C) 14
D) 16

Answer: C) 14

Q6. Who among the following won a gold medal at the Tammer Tournament 2026 in the women's 70 kg category?

A) Aarti Dhariyal
B) Ankushita Boro
C) Arundhati Chaudhary
D) Lovlina Borgohain

Answer: C) Arundhati Chaudhary

Q7. Who won the 2026 Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction?

A) Edmund Richardson
B) Salman Rushdie
C) William Dalrymple
D) Peter Frankopan

Answer: A) Edmund Richardson

Q8. Which book earned Edmund Richardson the 2026 Baillie Gifford Prize?

A) The Rise of Empires
B) Alexander: God, King, Man
C) The Art of War
D) The Great Conquerors

Answer: B) Alexander: God, King, Man

Q9. Harmanpreet Singh scored his 250th international goal during which tournament?

A) Hockey World Cup
B) Sultan Azlan Shah Cup
C) Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026
D) FIH Pro League

Answer: C) Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026

Q10. What is the approximate proposed elevation of India's planned railway station beneath Tanglang La pass?

A) 4,850 metres
B) 5,068 metres
C) 5,256 metres
D) 5,500 metres

Answer: C) 5,256 metres