

## International

### S. Jaishankar to Represent India at SCO Summit in Pakistan

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to Islamabad to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on 15th October and 16th October, making him the first foreign minister to travel to the neighbouring country in nearly a decade. Jaishankar will head the delegation that will represent India at the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government to be held in Pakistani capital from October 15-16.

### Sri Lanka Reaches Debt-Restructuring Agreement

In a major relief to the cash-strapped island nation, the Sri Lankan government has announced a long-delayed debt restructuring agreement with its sovereign bondholders. The Ministry of Finance said it reached an agreement with representatives of its international and local holders of International Sovereign Bonds (ISB) on September 19, 2024.

### WHO Approves the First Diagnostic Test for Mpox

The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the first Mpox diagnostic test for emergency use, which will boost diagnostic capacity in countries facing outbreaks of the disease. The Alinity m MPXV assay is a real-time PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test that enables detection of monkeypox virus DNA from human skin lesion swabs. It is manufactured by Abbott Molecular Inc, an American company, and specifically designed for use by trained clinical laboratory personnel.

So far, over 800 people have died from Mpox in Africa, with more than 30,000 cases reported.

### Mauritius to Begin Legislative Election on Nov. 10

Mauritius will hold its legislative election on November 10, 2024. The presidency also announced the dissolution of the National Assembly as from Friday. The National Assembly of Mauritius has a unicameral system and consists of 70 members with a term of five years. Voters will elect directly 62 members of the National Assembly.

### WHO Launches Global Strategic Plan to Fight Rising Dengue and Other Aedes-Borne Arboviral Diseases

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness and Response Plan (SPRP) to tackle dengue and other Aedes-borne arboviruses. The plan aims at reducing the burden of disease, suffering and deaths from dengue and other Aedes-borne arboviral diseases such as Zika and chikungunya, by fostering a global coordinated response. An estimated four billion people are at risk of infection from arboviruses around the world, and this number is estimated to increase to 5 billion by 2050.

## National

### Chhattisgarh's Biggest Anti-Naxal Operation: 31 Maoists Killed

Security personnel gunned down at least 31 suspected Maoists in the dense Abujmarh forest between Narayanpur and Dantewada districts of Chhattisgarh's Bastar region. This is one of the biggest anti-Naxal operations carried out in the state, which came together after Narayanpur district officials received intel about a meeting of top-level commanders of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), and training of cadres.

### SC Orders SIT to Investigate Allegations of Adulterated Ghee in Tirumala Tirupati Prasadam

The Supreme Court of India has ordered to constitute an independent Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the

allegations regarding the use of adulterated ghee in preparing prasadam laddus at the Tirumala Tirupati Temple. The independent SIT will include two CBI officers, two Andhra Pradesh police officers, and a senior officer of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The probe will be supervised by the CBI director.

### **India's Air Defence Strengthens with Akashteer Systems for the Army**

The Indian Army has enhanced its air defence capabilities with the acquisition of 100 Akashteer air defence systems. Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), these advanced air defence control and reporting systems (ADCRS) will serve as a critical asset in safeguarding the country from aerial threats, including missile and rocket attacks. The successful delivery of these systems underscores India's commitment to bolstering its military's self-reliance and modernizing its defence infrastructure.

### **Business and Economy**

### **Nepal to Sell 40 MW Electricity to Bangladesh via India**

Nepal, India and Bangladesh have signed a tripartite agreement allowing Nepal to sell 40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh using the land and infrastructure of India. Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) signed the agreement in Kathmandu. The tripartite power deal is a milestone in Nepal's energy sector since Nepal's hydroelectricity is being exported to a third country for the first time in Nepal's history.

### **Hurun's India Under 35: Top 10 Young Indian Entrepreneurs in 2024**

The 2024 Hurun India Under-35 list acknowledges 150 under-35 entrepreneurs, with 123 (82%) of total entrants being first-generation leaders with a business valuation of \$50 million, and \$100 million for the

next-gen leaders. Seven women are featured on the list, four of whom are carrying forward their family businesses.

The youngest individual featured in the 2024 Hurun India Under 35s was Sharechat's 31-year-old Ankush Sachdeva. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's daughter, Isha Ambani, and Parita Parekh, co-founder of Toddle, are among the youngest women named in the list. Mamaearth's co-founder, Ghazal Alagh, 35, has successfully led her startup to become a publicly listed company. Additionally, Alakh Pandey (32), the founder of ed-tech Physics Wallah, and Aakash Ambani (32), the Chairman of Reliance Infocomm, also feature on the list.

### **EU Votes for Higher Tariffs on Imported Electric Vehicles from China**

The European Union has voted to pave the way for tariffs of up to 35.3 percent on electric vehicles imported from China. The vote comes after a year-long anti-subsidy investigation by the European Commission. The investigation proposed the tariffs to counter what it sees as unfair Chinese subsidies.

### **Lupin Arm Buys Nine Brands in South Africa**

Pharma company Lupin Ltd. announced that its South African subsidiary, Pharma Dynamics, has acquired nine brands along with their associated trademarks from the Medical Nutritional Institute SA (MNI) in South Africa, through a partnership deal with ImpiloVest, a South African investment firm.

The acquired brands include AntaGolin, RyChol, NeuroVance, SkinVance, FlamLeve, Rheumalin, SleepVance, ImmunoVance, and OviVance.

### **HDFC Bank Records Loan Growth of 7% in Q2**

HDFC Bank has registered a 7% rise in loans to ₹25.19 lakh crore in the second quarter of this fiscal. The bank's average deposits were Rs. 23.53 lakh crore for the

September 2024 quarter, a growth of around 15.4 per cent against Rs. 20.38 lakh crore for the September 2023 quarter. The bank also securitised/assigned loans of Rs. 19,200 crore (year to date Rs. 24,600 crore) as a strategic initiative. Liquidity coverage ratio (average) was around 127 per cent for the quarter.

## Sports

### Women's T20 Cricket World Cup: India Loses to New Zealand

India lost to New Zealand by 58 runs in the Women's T20 Cricket World Cup. Chasing a target of 161 runs, the Women in Blue were all out after just 102 runs in 19 overs. For New Zealand, Rosemary Mair took four

wickets. Earlier, opting to bat first, New Zealand posted 160 for 4 in their allotted 20 overs.

### ISSF Junior World Championship: Indian Trio Wins Gold in Men's 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol

The trio of Mukesh Nelavalli, Raajwardan Patil, and Harsimar Singh Rattha have secured victory in the men's 25-meter rapid-fire pistol team competition at the ISSF Junior World Championship in Peru. This win also marks the 11th gold medal for India in the championship. India remained at the top of the medal tally with a total of 16 medals, which includes one silver and four bronze.