

International

Azerbaijan and Armenia Sign Landmark Agreement to End Decades-Long Conflict

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan have signed an agreement aimed at ending decades of conflict.

As part of the deal, the US will help build a major transit corridor that will be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity.

The route will connect Azerbaijan and its autonomous Nakhchivan exclave, which are separated by Armenian territory. Azerbaijan and Armenia fought over Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnically Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan in the 1980s and 1990s, and violence has flared up in the years since.

Important Days

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: 9th August

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed every year on 9 August to promote and protect the rights of indigenous communities worldwide.

It highlights their rich cultural heritage, languages, and traditional knowledge while addressing challenges such as marginalization, loss of land, and environmental threats.

World Sanskrit Day 2025: 9th August

World Sanskrit Day is celebrated annually on Shravana Purnima to honor Sanskrit, one of the world's oldest languages and the foundation of India's ancient knowledge systems.

It highlights the language's role in preserving Vedic literature, classical texts, and India's cultural heritage.

Nagasaki Day: 9th August

Nagasaki Day is observed on 9 August to commemorate the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945 during World War II.

Three days after Hiroshima, the U.S. dropped the "Fat Man" atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

Memorial ceremonies are held in Nagasaki and worldwide to honor the victims and to spread the message that such tragedies must never be repeated in human history.

Obituary

Apollo 13 Commander Jim Lovell Dies at 97

Astronaut Jim Lovell, the commander of the Apollo 13 Moon Mission, who guided the Apollo 13 safely back to Earth in 1970, has died.

Lovell, who was also part of the Apollo 8 mission, was the first man to go to the Moon twice, but never actually landed. One of NASA's most travelled astronauts in the agency's first decade, Lovell flew four times: Gemini 7, Gemini 12, Apollo 8, and Apollo 13, with the two Apollo flights riveting the folks back on Earth.

National

India's Defence Production Hits Record ₹1.51 Lakh Crore in FY 2024-25

The annual defence production has soared to an all-time high figure of one lakh fifty-one thousand crore rupees in the financial year 2024-25.

The milestone represents a robust 18 percent growth over the previous fiscal year's output of one lakh twenty-seven thousand crore rupees.

Indian Railways Conducts Trial Run of Asia's Longest Freight Train 'Rudrastra'

The Indian Railways has achieved a new milestone by successfully conducting a trial run of Asia's largest freight train, the 4.5-km-long 'Rudrastra'.

The trial run was conducted from the Ganjkhwaja railway station in Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh, to Garhwa in Jharkhand, covering a distance of 209 km in 5 hours 10 minutes at an average speed of 40.50 km per hour.

Rudrastra is Asia's longest freight train, which will make freight transportation and loading quick.

Govt Approves Rs 12,000 Cr Targeted LPG Subsidy for Ujjwala Yojana in 2025-26

The government has approved the continuation of targeted subsidies for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana consumers for the year 2025-26 with an estimated cost of over 12 thousand crore rupees.

Over 10 crore 33 lakh households have benefited under the scheme. The government will provide a targeted subsidy of 300 rupees per 14.2 kilogram cylinder for up to nine refills per year.

The government has also approved compensation amounting to 30 thousand crore rupees to three public sector oil marketing companies, including IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL.

ICMR Launches SHINE Program to Inspire Next Generation of Health Scientists

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Health Research organized a nationwide student outreach program on Science and Health Innovation for the Nextgen Explorers (SHINE) in New Delhi.

The initiative aims to introduce students to the field of health and biomedical research and to motivate young leaders to pursue careers in the field of science and public health.

Business and Economy

SBI Q1 Profit Rises 12.5% to ₹19,160 Crore

The State Bank of India (SBI) reported a 12.5% year-on-year increase in its net profit for the first quarter of FY2024-25, reaching ₹19,160 crore.

The bank's Net Interest Income (NII) for the quarter at ₹41,072 crore decreased by 0.13% YoY.

The domestic Net Interest Margin (NIM) for the quarter fell 33 bps and stood at 3.02% as compared with 3.35%. During the quarter, the bank's loan loss provisions increased 9.21% to ₹4,934 crore.

SEBI Removes Transaction Fee for Mutual Fund Distributors

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced the removal of transaction charges for mutual fund distributors.

Earlier, under the master circular on mutual funds (June 2024), Asset Management Companies (AMCs) were allowed to levy a transaction fee of ₹100 on subscriptions above ₹10,000 (₹150 for new investors) in regular schemes, with the amount deducted from the investment. This move was aimed at incentivizing distributors. SEBI has now scrapped this provision after public consultation, clarifying that the change applies only to regular schemes, not direct plans.

Government e-Marketplace Achieves ₹5.4 Lakh Crore GMV in FY 2024-25

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has achieved a remarkable milestone by recording a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of 5.4 lakh crore rupees in the financial year 2024-25.

GeM, an online procurement platform launched by the Government of India, facilitates transparent, efficient, and cost-effective public procurement of goods and services.

Sports

Jamshedpur FC Beats 1 Ladakh FC 2-0, Tops Group C in Durand Cup

The Jamshedpur FC team won its match against the 1 Ladakh FC team by 2-0 in the Group C league match played at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur during the 134th Durand Cup match scheduled in Jharkhand.

Jamshedpur FC has won all its league matches in the Group and has scored a maximum of 8 points, placing it at the top. By securing the highest points in group C, the Jamshedpur FC team has qualified for the quarterfinals of this season of the Durand Cup.