

(27<sup>th</sup> August 2025)

## International

### Lithuanian parliament approves Inga Ruginiene as new Prime Minister.

The Lithuanian Parliament has approved the appointment of Social Democrat Inga Ruginiene as the country's new Prime Minister.

Currently serving as the Minister of Social Security and Labour, Ruginiene now has up to 15 days to present a new cabinet list, agreed upon with the President, for a Parliamentary vote. She will formally assume office once the President signs the decree of appointment.

Ruginiene was first elected to the Parliament in 2024. Prior to entering politics, she served as the Chair of the Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation.

### India and Peradeniya University host the first International Conference on the future of Pali Studies in Kandy.

The Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy, in collaboration with the University of Peradeniya, hosted the first-ever international conference on the Future of Pali Studies in Kandy.

Discussions covered a wide range of themes, including Theravada traditions, manuscript studies, and Pali's evolution from a classical scholarly medium to a living language.

For the University of Peradeniya, this was the first international Pali conference it had ever hosted, marking a significant milestone. The event also highlighted the deep cultural ties between India and Sri Lanka.

### India and South Africa convene 5th Joint Working Group meeting on agriculture.

India and South Africa held the 5th meeting of the Joint Working Group on agriculture virtually, marking an important step in strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors.

The discussions focused on knowledge exchange, joint research initiatives, capacity building, and market access challenges.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (India), and Thapsana Molepo, Acting Director of International Trade Promotion (South Africa).

### UN Secretary-General hails UNGA's move to establish new global AI governance mechanisms.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has welcomed the UN General Assembly's decision to establish two new mechanisms on Artificial Intelligence (AI) to strengthen international cooperation in AI governance. The two bodies include the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, which will act as a bridge between advanced AI research and policymaking, and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, designed to provide an inclusive platform for addressing critical issues surrounding AI.

## Important Days

### World Lake Day: 27<sup>th</sup> August.

World Lake Day, observed annually on August 27, underscores the importance of protecting and sustainably managing the world's lakes.

Lakes are vital for biodiversity, livelihoods, climate balance, and freshwater supply, yet they face mounting threats from pollution, over-extraction, invasive species, and climate change.

The United Nations designated August 27 as World Lake Day through resolution in 2024.

Coordinated by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the day aims to raise awareness, inspire global action, and promote conservation and restoration initiatives to ensure the ecological and economic sustainability of lakes worldwide.

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## National

### NHAI launches 'Project Aarohan' to provide scholarships for toll plaza workers' children.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched Project Aarohan, an initiative designed to support the educational aspirations of toll plaza employees' families.

The scheme aims to benefit 500 students from Class 11 to graduation, each receiving an annual scholarship of ₹12,000 in the financial year 2025–26. In addition, 50 meritorious students pursuing postgraduate or higher studies will be awarded ₹50,000 scholarships each.

### Government revises wheat stock limits to prevent hoarding and stabilize prices.

The Government of India has revised stock limits on wheat to safeguard food security, curb hoarding, and stabilize prices ahead of the festive season. The limits will be applicable to traders, wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers, and processors across all States and Union Territories.

The stock ceiling for traders and wholesalers has been reduced from 3,000 metric tonnes to 2,000 metric tonnes, while for retailers, it has been fixed at 8 metric tonnes.

The revised stock limits will remain effective until 31st March 2026.

### PM Modi flags off 'E-Vitara' EV, inaugurates hybrid battery electrodes plant in Gujarat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Made in India battery electric vehicle (BEV) 'E-Vitara' from Hansalpur, Gujarat. The new electric vehicle, produced under India's green mobility push, will be exported to over 100 countries, including major markets such as Europe and Japan. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the local production of hybrid battery

electrodes at the TDS Lithium-Ion Battery Plant in Hansalpur.

The facility, a joint venture of Toshiba, Denso, and Suzuki, marks a significant step in strengthening India's domestic manufacturing capacity and promoting clean energy innovation.

### Government schools account for 56% of enrolments: Education Survey 2025.

According to the Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education, 2025, government schools account for 56% of total student enrolments across the country, reaffirming their central role in India's education system.

The share is particularly high in rural areas (66%), compared to 30% in urban areas. In contrast, private unaided recognised schools represent about 32% of enrolments nationwide.

The survey also highlights a stark contrast in household expenditure on education. The average annual per-student expenditure in government schools stood at ₹2,863, while in non-government schools, it was over ₹25,000 per student.

## Business and Economy

### ABCDL gets RBI's in-principle nod to operate as online payment aggregator.

Aditya Birla Capital Digital Ltd. (ABCDL) has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as an online payment aggregator under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

ABCDL is a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. (ABCL), the financial services arm of the Aditya Birla Group and a non-banking financial company (NBFC). ABCL's portfolio includes businesses such as Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd., Aditya Birla Health Insurance Ltd., Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance, Asset Management and Pension Management, and Aditya Birla Insurance Brokers Ltd.

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## Sports

### India's Sift Kaur Samra clinches gold at Asian Shooting Championships in Kazakhstan.

Indian Olympian Sift Kaur Samra won the individual gold medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the 16th Asian Shooting Championships in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.

Samra scored 459.2 to claim the top spot, ahead of China's Yujie Yang (458.8) and Japan's Misaki Nobata (448.2).

Fellow Indian Ashi Chouksey finished seventh in the eight-shooter final with a score of 402.8. Indian Grandmaster.

### Praggnanandhaa takes joint lead after win over Firouzja.

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa claimed the joint lead at the Sinquefeld Cup, part of the Grand Chess Tour in the United States, after defeating French GM Alireza Firouzja in the seventh round.

This was Praggnanandhaa's second win of the tournament following a string of draws,

taking his tally to 4.5 points and placing him alongside American GM Fabiano Caruana at the top of the leaderboard.

World Champion D Gukesh suffered a setback, losing to American Wesley So, who now shares third place with Levon Aronian, both on 4 points.

### Swiatek advances to the second round of the US Open.

At the US Open, former World No. 1 Iga Swiatek advanced to the second round with a commanding 6-1, 6-2 victory over Emiliana Arango at a sunlit Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

Swiatek, who ended a 13-month title drought in July by winning her first Wimbledon crown, followed it up with her maiden Cincinnati title two weeks ago. She is now aiming to become the first WTA player since Serena Williams in 2012 to win both Wimbledon and the US Open in the same calendar year.