

International

Israel Releases 183 Palestinian Prisoners in Exchange for Hostages Under Ceasefire Deal

Israel has released 183 Palestinian prisoners as part of a broader exchange for Israeli hostages held in Gaza. Israel has begun releasing Palestinian prisoners after Hamas freed three Israeli hostages. This release is part of a broader arrangement under the ceasefire deal brokered by international mediators.

India Signs Key Pact with Panama for Quick Impact Projects

With tensions brewing over US staking claims on the Panama Canal, citing Chinese influence, India has signed an important umbrella agreement with the central American country to implement, for the first time, Quick Impact Projects (QIP). The memorandum of understanding (MoU) aims to deliver 'tangible' benefits to local communities in Panama by focusing on key areas such as physical infrastructure—roads and community centres—as well as social infrastructure, including education, healthcare, and sanitation.

PM Modi to Co-Chair AI Action Summit with President Macron

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will co-chair the AI Action Summit 2025 on February 10-11 alongside French President Emmanuel Macron. The event aims to shape global AI policies, ensuring innovation aligns with ethical responsibility.

Representatives from over 100 countries, along with top researchers, business leaders, and civil society members, will discuss AI's impact on governance, the economy, and fundamental rights.

3 Baltic Nations Disconnect their Electricity Systems from Russia's Power Grid

The three Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have officially disconnected their electricity systems from Russia's power grid. The move is seen as part of a broader plan to integrate more closely with the European Union

and strengthen regional security. The move also severs the Baltics' final energy ties to oil- and gas-rich Russia, more than three decades after the Soviet Union's collapse.

Following the detachment from the Soviet-era grid, the Baltic Power System will operate independently for 24 hours.

India Ranks 3rd in USGBC's Global List on Green Building Certification for 2023

India has been ranked third in the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions in the world for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2023. A total of 370 projects across buildings and spaces in India received LEED certification, covering 8.50 million gross square meters (GSM) of certified space. The list is topped by China.

LEED is a green building rating system, and the certification is a globally recognised symbol of sustainability achievement and leadership.

National

Joint Military Exercise 'Cyclone 2025' between India and Egypt to Begin in Rajasthan

A joint military exercise named "Cyclone 2025", between India and Egypt, has begun at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. The 14-day exercise aims to enhance defence cooperation between India and Egypt by sharing professional skills and improving interoperability of special forces in desert environments. This is the third edition of Cyclone exercise. Counter-terrorism operations, reconnaissance, raids, and other specialized missions will be part of the exercises, which will also involve special forces skills like sniping, combat free fall, reconnaissance, surveillance, and target designation.

Tamil Nadu CM Inaugurates India's Single Largest Solar Cell, Module Manufacturing Unit

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has inaugurated the country's single largest solar cell and module manufacturing unit at the Gangaikondan SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre.

Set up by TATA Power's solar energy manufacturing arm, with an investment of ₹3,800 crore, the TP Solar Limited's 4.30-GW photovoltaic cell and module manufacturing unit would provide employment to over 2,000 people.

Business and Economy.

India sets up EFTA Desk to Promote Trade, Investment, Business Facilitation

India is setting up a dedicated platform — EFTA (European Free Trade Association) desk — to promote trade, investment, and business facilitation between the two regions. India and the four European nations EFTA bloc signed a free trade agreement (FTA) on March 10 last year to boost trade and investment ties.

Sebi-registered non-bank brokers can Directly Access NDS-OM: RBI

The RBI said non-bank brokers registered with market-regulator Sebi can directly access NDS-OM, an electronic trading platform for secondary market transactions in government securities, on behalf of their clients.

Access to Negotiated Dealing System – Order Matching (NDS-OM), at present, is available to regulated entities and to the clients of banks and standalone primary dealers.

RBI Announces 'bank.in', 'fin.in' Domains for Banks, NBFCs to Combat Cyber Fraud

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the launch of exclusive internet domains—'bank.in' and 'fin.in'—for Indian financial institutions. This initiative aims to tackle the increasing cyber threats, particularly phishing and other malicious activities that undermine the security of online transactions.

The 'bank.in' domain will be exclusively available to Indian banks, providing them with a secure and easily identifiable online presence. The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) has been designated as the exclusive registrar for these domains, with registrations set to commence in April 2025. Additionally, the RBI plans to introduce 'fin.in' as a dedicated domain

for non-banking financial entities, further strengthening cybersecurity measures across the financial sector.

RBI to set up Working Group to Review Trading and Settlement Timings Of Markets

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a 9-member Working Group to conduct a comprehensive review of the trading and settlement timings for financial markets.

The group will examine various developments in the financial sector over recent years, including the increased electronification of trading, the availability of Forex and certain interest rate derivative markets operating on a 24×5 basis, the growing participation of non-residents in domestic financial markets, and the round-the-clock availability of payment systems.

Zomato to Change Parent Company Name to Eternal

In a letter to the company's shareholders, Zomato's founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal stated that the company's board of directors has approved to rebrand the company as "Eternal Ltd". The company's food delivery business Zomato will remain the same, along with the app, CEO Deepinder Goyal said.

Mr Goyal also said that Eternal will comprise four major businesses (as of now) - Zomato, Blinkit, District and Hyperpure.

Sports

Freestyle Chess Grand Slam, 2025: Gukesh goes down to Caruana in first-leg of quarterfinal

World Champion D. Gukesh suffered a rare setback in normal time control, losing to USA's Fabiano Caruana in the first game of the quarterfinals of the Freestyle Grand Slam chess tournament. Gukesh was at the top of his game for a good part, improvising when it was necessary, but he failed to find a queen sacrifice in the latter stages of the middle game.

Former Sri Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne Retires from International Cricket after 100th Test

Former Sri Lankan captain and opener Dimuth Karunaratne has announced retirement from international cricket after playing his 100th Test against Australia in Galle. During his career, Karunaratne amassed 7,222 Test runs at an impressive average of nearly 40, with a career-best score of 244. In addition to his Test achievements, he played 50 ODIs, scoring 1,316 runs.

Cricket: India defeats England in 2nd ODI by 4 wickets in Cuttack

India defeated England by 4 wickets in the second One Day International match at Barabati

Stadium in Cuttack, to seal the series 2-0 with one match left. This is India's seventh successive bilateral ODI series win at home against England. Chasing 305 runs to win, the Men in Blue scored 308 for six wickets in 44.3 overs, with captain Rohit Sharma scoring a magnificent 119 runs and Shubman Gill scoring 60 runs.

Rohit Sharma became the second most prolific six-hitter in the history of One-Day International cricket during the second ODI against England in Cuttack. He was level on 331 sixes with Chris Gayle ahead of the match, and overtook the West Indies opener when he flicked Gus Atkinson for a six over midwicket in the second over of India's chase.