

## International

### Sebastien Lecornu Is France's New Prime Minister

French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed Sebastien Lecornu, the current Defence Minister and long-time ally, as France's new prime minister. Lecornu is now the fourth prime minister in barely a year, replacing Francois Bayrou after his government lost a confidence vote over a contentious 2026 budget plan.

### Norway's Labour Party Wins the 2025 Elections

The Norwegian Labour Party has won the parliamentary election and will remain in power for another four years. After counting about 99% of the votes, the Labour Party won 89 seats in Parliament, while the opposition right-wing bloc had 80 seats. To form a majority, at least 85 seats are needed. The party led by Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre continues to be the country's largest political force.

### Sri Lanka Passes Bill Abolishing Special Privileges to Former Presidents

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court has cleared a bill that seeks to abolish special privileges enjoyed by former presidents. The legislation, titled the Presidents' Entitlements (Repeal) Bill, repeals the 1986 Act under which ex-presidents and their widows received state-funded housing, transport, staff and secretarial allowances.

### India, Russia Multilateral Joint Military Exercise ZAPAD 2025 Begins

An Indian Armed Forces contingent has departed to participate in the multilateral joint military exercise ZAPAD 2025 that commenced in Russia. The seven-day exercise aims to enhance military cooperation, improve interoperability, and provide a platform for participating armies to exchange tactics, techniques, and procedures in the domains of conventional warfare and counter-terrorism operations. The exercise will focus on joint company-level operations in open and plain terrain, wherein troops will undertake missions ranging from joint planning, tactical drills, and special arms skills.

The contingent comprises 57 personnel from the Indian Army, seven from the Indian Air Force, and one from the Indian Navy.

## National

### PM Modi Announces Financial Assistance of 1,500 Cr for Flood-Hit Himachal Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conducted an aerial survey of the flood-, landslide-, and heavy rain-affected areas of Himachal Pradesh. He also assured the state government of the advance release of the second instalment of SDRF and the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, approvals under the PM Awas Yojana, restoration of national highways, provisions of relief under the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, and distribution of mini kits for livestock.

### India Launches World's First Digital Tribal University 'Adi Sanskriti'

Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey has launched the world's first Digital Tribal University, Adi Sanskriti, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Highlighting the University, Mr. Uikey said that Adi Sanskriti is a digital academy and e-learning platform with an online marketplace for tribal art culture, crafts, and knowledge systems for national and global audiences.

The platform integrates three major components: Adi Vishwavidyalaya (Digital Tribal Art Academy), Adi Sampada (Socio-Cultural Repository), and Adi Haat (Online Marketplace).

### Indore Tops Swachh Vayu Survey 2025

According to the latest 'Swachh Vayu Survekshan' (Clean Air Survey) for 2025, Indore has been ranked as the top-performing million-plus-population city in India for implementing measures to combat air pollution. Jabalpur, also in Madhya Pradesh, secured the second position, while Agra and Surat shared the third spot. Navi Mumbai and Kanpur rounded out the top five, followed by Bhopal, Allahabad and Chandigarh.

Major metropolitan areas like Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru found themselves significantly further down the list, at the 25<sup>th</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> positions, respectively.

The annual survey, now in its fourth edition, assesses cities based on their real-world actions to mitigate pollution from various sources.

## **ISRO Signs Agreement for Commercialization of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle Technology**

A technology transfer agreement was signed between NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the transfer of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) technology.

Developed by ISRO, the SSLV is designed as a quick turnaround, on-demand launch vehicle that can be efficiently scaled for industrial production. It is aimed at capturing the growing global market for small satellite launches. The vehicle can be launched from Sriharikota for inclined orbits and from the upcoming launch site at Kulasekarapattinam for polar orbits.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Equity MF Inflows Drop 22% MoM in August to ₹33,430 Crore: AMFI Data**

According to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), equity mutual fund (MF) inflows fell 22% month-on-month in August 2025 to ₹33,430 crore, compared with the ₹42,702 crore in July, but August marked the 54th consecutive month of positive inflows.

### **Nebius Signs \$17.4 Billion AI Infrastructure Deal with Microsoft**

Nebius Group (NBIS) will provide Microsoft with GPU infrastructure capacity, in a deal worth \$17.4 billion, over a five-year term. The deal underscores the surging demand for high-performance AI compute, as companies invest heavily to bolster their AI infrastructure. Microsoft (MSFT) may also acquire additional services capacity under the deal, bringing the total contract value to about \$19.4 billion.

### **UPI Crosses 20 Billion Transactions in August, Records ₹24.85 Lakh Crore Value**

According to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has crossed 20 billion monthly transactions for the first time in August 2025. The total transaction value stood at ₹24.85 lakh crore, slightly lower than the ₹25.08 lakh crore recorded in July.

PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm led the market, with financial payments and essential goods driving transaction volume. UPI now constitutes 85% of India's digital transactions and is expanding globally.

### **SEBI Eases Delisting Rules for PSUs With 90% Government Stake**

SEBI has put in place simplified rules for the voluntary delisting of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) where the government holds 90% or more equity. These rules will not apply to banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and insurance companies, even if the government holding crosses the 90% mark.

Earlier, delisting required the consent of at least two-thirds of public shareholders. SEBI has now removed this requirement for eligible PSUs.

## **Sports**

### **Asia Cup 2025: India Beats the UAE by 9 Wickets**

In the Asia Cup 2025, India beat the UAE by 9 wickets in the group A match held in Dubai. Chasing a modest target of 58, India cruised to victory in just 4.3 overs, losing only one wicket. Earlier, opting to bowl first, India dismissed the UAE for a paltry 57 runs in just 13.1 overs.

### **Indian Boxer Nupur Sheoran Reaches +80kg Semifinals at World Championships**

Indian Heavyweight boxer Nupur Sheoran has defeated Oltinoy Sotimboeva of Uzbekistan to reach the semifinals of the women's +80kg category in the World Boxing Championships at Liverpool, U.K. She overcame a tough contest to beat the Uzbek 4-1 and secure at least a bronze medal.