

International

Sand & dust storms affect over 330 million people in more than 150 countries: World Meteorological Organization.

The World Meteorological Organization said that sand and dust storms now affect over 330 million people in more than 150 countries, causing mounting harm to health, economies, and the environment.

The UN body said, about 2 billion tons of dust are emitted annually.

It said, over 80 percent originates from deserts in North Africa and the Middle East, but travels globally.

The WMO said, annual storm-related costs in the Middle East and North Africa, MENA, region alone reach 150 billion dollars.

The UN General Assembly marked the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms by declaring 2025-2034 a dedicated decade of action.

Science and Technology

Microsoft's new AI system to help decode protein motion, advance drug discovery.

Microsoft's new AI system, Biomolecular Emulator-1 (BioEmu-1), will help decode protein motion and help in the faster discovery of drugs.

BioEmu-1 is a deep learning model that can generate thousands of protein structures per hour on a single graphics processing unit (GPU). Proteins play an essential role – from forming muscle fibres to protecting against diseases – in almost all biological processes in both humans and other life forms.

DRDO, Indian Air Force successfully test-fire Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Astra Missile in Odisha.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted flight-test of indigenous Astra missile. This Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile was flight tested from the Sukhoi-30 Mk-I platform in Odisha.

Astra has a range exceeding 100 kilometers and is equipped with an air guidance and navigation system.

Awards

'Hem Bahadur Malla Award' conferred on former Chief Justice Shrestha.

The 'Hem Bahadur Malla Award 2080', has been conferred on former Chief Justice Kalyan Shrestha.

The award was established in honour of the founder of Salt Trading Corporation, the late Hem Bahadur Malla.

The award was conferred on former Chief Justice Shrestha in recognition of his contributions to judicial leadership and institutional development.

Shrestha had served as the 25th Chief Justice.

Shrestha was recommended by the selection committee chaired by the former Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Umesh Mainali.

Important Days

World Malala Day: 12th July.

World Malala Day is observed every year on 12th July to honor Malala Yousafzai, the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. This day marks her birthday and celebrates her courage and advocacy for girls' right to education, especially in regions affected by gender inequality and conflict.

National

Maratha Military Landscapes of India inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Maratha Military Landscapes of India has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming India's 44th property to receive this recognition.

This global accolade celebrates India's enduring cultural legacy, showcasing its diverse traditions of architectural brilliance, regional identity, and historical continuity.

Spanning from the 17th to 19th centuries CE, Maratha Military Landscapes of India is an extraordinary network of twelve forts that demonstrates the strategic military vision and architectural ingenuity of the Maratha Empire. Spread across the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the selected sites, include Salher,

Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, along with Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

Prasar Bharati signs MoU with HAI to boost the Sport Nationwide.

Prasar Bharati and the Handball Association of India (HAI) have signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to produce and broadcast all national and international handball events.

These events will be broadcast on DD Sports, Waves OTT, and other Prasar Bharati platforms.

The MoU aims to significantly boost the sport's reach and nurture talent in the country.

Govt plans to roll out over Rs 1,000 cr subsidy scheme to promote rare earth magnets production.

The government is planning to roll out a 1,345 crore rupees subsidy scheme to promote the production of rare earth magnets in the country. The scheme will provide end-to-end support for the conversion of rare earth oxides into magnets.

The subsidy will facilitate investment for establishing processing facilities for companies to convert rare earth oxides into magnets.

The proposed scheme comes in the wake of China restricting exports of rare earth magnets, that has hit global supplies, impacting EV makers.

NHAI strengthens process for reporting Loose FASTags for blacklisting.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has strengthened the process for reporting Loose FASTags for blacklisting to ensure smooth tolling operations.

Loose FASTags that are commonly known as tag-in-hand pose a challenge to the efficiency of Electronic Toll Collection operations.

To ensure timely corrective measures, NHAI has provided a dedicated email ID and has directed the Toll Collection Agencies and Concessionaires to immediately report such FASTags.

Based on the reports received, NHAI will take immediate action to initiate blacklisting of the reported FASTags.

Business and Economy

NPCI International accelerates UPI adoption across UAE.

NPCI International Payments Limited has announced significant progress in expanding India's Unified Payments Interface acceptance across the United Arab Emirates, unveiling strategic initiatives to deepen the digital payment platform's integration as both countries strengthen their financial connectivity.

The expansion supports the UAE's ambitious vision of achieving a cashless economy while enhancing cross-border payment experiences for millions of Indians who travel between the two nations annually.

UPI, India's real-time account-to-account payment system, enables instant and secure transactions through mobile applications, currently handling over 18 billion transactions monthly, becoming one of the world's leading digital payment infrastructures.

Sports

Italy qualifies for ICC Men's T20 World Cup for the first time.

In cricket, Italy has qualified for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup for the first time. Alongside Italy, the Netherlands has also qualified for the tournament, which will be held in India and Sri Lanka next year.

So far, 15 teams have qualified for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. The Asian leg of the qualifier will see three more sides qualifying from the competition, while two teams will make it through from the African qualifier.

Wimbledon: Carlos Alcaraz enters Men's Singles Final beating Taylor Fritz in semifinal.

In Wimbledon Tennis, Carlos Alcaraz reached the Men's Singles final, beating Taylor Fritz in the semi-final clash.

World No. 2 Alcaraz of Spain defeated fifth seed Taylor Fritz of the US 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, and 7-3 in four sets.

Four Indians enter round of 32 at FIDE Women's World Chess Cup 2025.

India delivered an impressive performance at the FIDE Women's World Chess Cup 2025 in Batumi, Georgia, with four players securing their spots in the third round. Top-ranked Grandmaster Koneru Humpy played a quiet

draw with Afruza Khamdamova of Uzbekistan in the second game.

Dronavalli Harika, a two-time bronze medallist at the event, defeated compatriot P. V. Nandhidhaa to move into the Round of 32.

In other matches, R Vaishali defeated Maili-Jade Ouellet of Canada, and Divya Deshmukh got past Kesaria Mgeladze of Georgia, both winning their respective matches in straight games to enter the last 32.