

International

India-France joint military drill exercise shakti-2025 to be held in France.

The 8th edition of Exercise Shakti-2025, a joint military exercise between India and France, will be held from 18th June to 1st July at La Cavalerie in France.

The aim of the exercise is to enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake multi-domain operations in a sub-conventional scenario.

The joint exercise will facilitate developing interoperability, bonhomie and camaraderie between the Armies of both nations.

This will also enhance the level of defence cooperation, further fostering bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.

Sri Lanka to hike power tariffs by 15%.

Sri Lanka will raise electricity tariffs by 15 per cent starting on the 12th of June.

The decision comes six months after a major tariff cut in December 2024, which reduced electricity bills by approximately 20 per cent amid easing inflation and improved power generation.

However, the International Monetary Fund, in a review earlier this year, expressed concern and urged Colombo to ensure cost-reflective pricing as part of its ongoing \$2.9 billion bailout program.

India, Sweden discuss stronger ties in trade, clean energy and tech.

India and Sweden have discussed strengthening collaboration across sectors, including clean energy, digital technology, climate, healthcare and life sciences, as well as skill development.

Mr. Goyal said he invited greater Swedish participation in India's growing infrastructure and manufacturing sectors. India has emerged as a cornerstone platform for bringing together business leaders from both nations to foster collaboration in trade, innovation, and investment.

Important Days

World Day Against Child Labour:12th June.

World Day Against Child Labour 2025 is observed on June 12 with the theme "Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up efforts!".

This theme highlights the strides made toward ending child labour but emphasizes that much remains, urging intensified global action.

Science and Technology

Covid-19 virus protein triggers immune attack on healthy cells: Study.

Israeli researchers have discovered that a protein from the SARS-CoV-2 virus can cause the immune system to attack healthy cells mistakenly.

Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem found that the virus's nucleocapsid protein (NP), which normally helps package the virus's genetic material inside infected cells, can spread to nearby uninfected cells.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially labelled it a "Variant Under Monitoring," meaning it is spreading fast enough to warrant attention, but not enough to be classified as a major threat.

Global AI collaboration revolutionizes personalized cancer treatment.

An international team of scientists unveiled an artificial intelligence (AI) technique that securely analyses global cancer samples, paving the way for more personalized and privacy-protected cancer treatments.

This innovative approach promises to accelerate personalized cancer treatment by enabling clinicians to match therapies to individual patients better.

Strict privacy laws and technical differences in lab methods have long made it difficult to combine large cancer datasets, said the researchers led by Australia's Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI).

National

India's social security coverage jumps to 64.3%, ranks 2nd globally: ILO.

India's social security coverage has increased from 19 per cent in 2015 to 64.3 per cent in 2025.

According to the latest data from the International Labour Organization's ILOSTAT, the coverage reflects a 45 percentage point surge over the past decade.

The ILO acknowledged India's achievement and officially published on its dashboard that over 94 crore people are now covered under at least one social protection benefit.

In terms of beneficiary count, India now ranks second in the world, providing social protection to around 94 crore citizens.

Aadhaar authentication made mandatory for online Tatkal ticket booking.

Indian Railways has announced key modifications in the tatkal ticket booking system. According to the new scheme, Aadhaar-based OTP authentication will be mandatory for online tatkal bookings from the 15th of July.

Tatkal tickets booked at computerized Passenger Reservation System counters and through authorized agents will require OTP authentication sent to the mobile number provided by the user at the time of booking.

Cabinet approves Rs 6,405 cr rail projects to boost connectivity across Jharkhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh.

The Union Cabinet has approved two projects of the Ministry of Railways with a total cost of six thousand 405 crore rupees. The projects include the doubling of Koderma – Barkakana rail line has been approved at a cost of three thousand and 63 crore rupees, while the doubling of the Ballari – Chikjajur rail line has been approved at a cost of three thousand and 342 crore rupees.

The two projects covering seven districts across the states of Jharkhand, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 318 kms.

Centre cuts customs duty on crude edible oils.

The Centre has reduced the basic customs duty on crude edible oil, including crude sunflower, soybean, and palm oils, from 20 per cent to 10 per cent.

This has resulted in the import duty differential between crude and refined edible oils from 8.75 per cent to 19.25 per cent.

The reduced duty will also encourage domestic refining and ensure fair compensation for farmers. An advisory has been issued to edible oil associations and industry stakeholders to ensure that the full benefit of the reduced duty is passed on to consumers.

Business and Economy

World Bank projects India's FY26 growth at 6.3%.

The World Bank has pegged India's economic growth projection at 6.3 per cent for the Financial Year 2025-26, stating that the country is projected to maintain the fastest growth rate among the world's largest economies.

According to the World Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report, India's growth moderated in FY 2024-25 due to deceleration in industrial output growth.

The report stated that in FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28, growth is expected to recover to 6.6 per cent a year, on average. This would be partly supported by robust services activity, contributing to a pickup in exports.

SEBI Mandates UPI Payment System for Market Intermediaries from Oct 1.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has mandated a new UPI payment mechanism for all registered intermediaries who collect funds from investors to enhance investor protection and financial transparency within the securities market.

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment mechanism will be implemented from 1st October 2025.

To assist investors further, SEBI is also launching a tool called 'SEBI Check', which will allow users to confirm the authenticity of UPI IDs by scanning a QR code or manually entering the UPI ID to view verified bank details.

RBI discontinues daily VRR auctions.

The Reserve Bank of India has discontinued daily Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions, in view of a liquidity surplus in the banking system, currently estimated at around 2.75 to 3 lakh crore rupees.

The daily VRR auctions were launched on January 16 2025, to ease short-term liquidity tightness caused by tax-related outflows and foreign exchange interventions.

While daily VRR auctions have ended, the RBI will continue using tools like the 14-day VRR, Open Market Operations, and Standing Deposit Facility to manage liquidity as needed.

Sports

Brazil, Ecuador qualify for FIFA WC 2026.

Brazil and Ecuador have qualified for the FIFA World Cup 2026, while Uruguay, Paraguay and Colombia are on the cusp of qualification.

Vini Jr scored the winning goal as Brazil beat Paraguay 1-0 at the Neo Quimica Arena to secure FIFA World Cup 2026 qualification.

Meanwhile, Ecuador qualified for their fifth World Cup this century after a goalless draw with Peru.