

## International

### **Ukraine backs U.S. proposal for 30-day ceasefire in war with Russia.**

Ukraine has endorsed an American proposal for a 30-day ceasefire and agreed to immediate negotiations with Russia in pivotal talks in Jeddah after three years of grinding war.

In the first high-level U.S.-Ukraine meeting since President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's White House dressing down, the Americans agreed to restore military aid and they pledged to conclude a deal on Ukrainian minerals as soon as possible.

### **Ukraine world's biggest arms importer in 2020-24, India second: SIPRI.**

According to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Ukraine became the world's largest importer of major arms in the period 2020–24, with its imports increasing nearly 100 times over compared with 2015–19. The European arms imports overall grew by 155 per cent between the same periods. The United States further increased its share of global arms exports to 43 per cent, while Russia's exports fell by 64 per cent. India was the second-largest arms importer, though the trade figures decreased by 9.3% between 2015-19 and 2020-24.

### **Mauritius confers its highest honour 'Order of the Star and Key of Indian Ocean' on Indian PM.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was bestowed with the topmost honour of Mauritius, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean. Mr. Modi is the first Indian to receive the honour. It is the 21st international honour bestowed upon Mr. Modi by a foreign country.

Mr. Modi reached Mauritius early on Tuesday and he called on the President of Mauritius Dharambeer Gokhool at the State House. As a special gesture Mr. Modi handed over Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards to President Gokhool and First Lady Vrinda Gokhool.

### **India assumes Chair of 68th UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.**

India presided over the 68th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), which commenced in Vienna, marking a significant milestone in global efforts to combat drug-related challenges. Ambassador Shambhu S. Kumaran, India's Permanent

Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, chaired the session, which will run until March 14. As the Chair, India prioritised fostering international collaboration and promoting evidence-based strategies to address rising illicit drug trafficking and substance abuse.

### **Foxconn unveils its first large language model named 'FoxBrain'.**

Taiwan's electronics contract manufacturer Foxconn has launched its first large language model (LLM) and plans to use the technology to improve manufacturing and supply chain management. The model, named "FoxBrain," was trained using 120 of Nvidia's H100 GPUs and completed in about four weeks. The model is based on Meta's Llama 3.1 architecture. It is Taiwan's first large language model with reasoning capabilities that is optimised for traditional Chinese and Taiwanese language styles. Foxconn assembles iPhones for Apple and also produces Nvidia's artificial intelligence servers

### **13 of world's 20 most polluted cities in India: IQAir.**

Thirteen of the world's top 20 most polluted cities are in India, with Byrnihat in Assam topping the list, according to a new report published by The World Air Quality Report 2024 by IQAir. Delhi remains the most polluted capital city globally, while India ranked as the world's fifth most polluted country in 2024, down from third in 2023. The other four countries are Chad, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The 13 Indian cities in the world's top 20 most polluted cities are Byrnihat, Delhi, Mullanpur (Punjab), Faridabad, Loni, New Delhi, Gurugram, Ganganagar, Greater Noida, Bhiwadi, Muzaffarnagar, Hanumangarh and Noida.

## National

### **Centre notifies appointment of Justice Joymalya Bagchi to be new SC judge.**

The Central government had notified the President's appointment of Calcutta High Court judge, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, as a Supreme Court judge on March 10, 2025. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended Justice Bagchi's name to the government on March 6. Justice Bagchi is in line to be the Chief Justice of India in 2031.

## **India has 3rd-largest operating metro system, set to expand to 29 cities.**

India has the third-largest operating metro system in the world, after China and the United States. Replying to a supplementary question in the Rajya Sabha, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri stated that more than one thousand kilometres of metro rail is currently operational in 23 cities across the country. He further mentioned that 979 kilometres of metro lines are under construction, and upon completion, the metro network will extend to 29 cities.

Mr Puri added that to become the second-largest urban metro network, the central government requires cooperation from state governments.

## **Business and Economy**

### **LIC is the world's third strongest insurance brand: Brand Finance Insurance 100 2025.**

According to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 2025 ranking, LIC (brand value up 36% to USD13.3 billion), ranked 12th, has secured its position as the third strongest insurance brand globally, achieving a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 87.9/10. Meanwhile, SBI Life (brand value up 27% to USD1.6 billion) moved up 13 places to rank 74th globally this year.

Ping An Insurance remains the most valuable insurance brand for the 9th year, with a stable USD33.6 billion value, driven by strong familiarity in China.

Nissay/Nippon Life Insurance is the fastest-growing insurance brand, up 94% to USD9.2 billion.

### **India emerges as top source of FDI into Dubai.**

India's foreign direct investment (FDI) into Dubai surged to \$3.018 billion in 2024, a five times jump from \$589 million in 2023, making the country the top investor in Dubai. India, the US, France and the UK were top source countries for FDI into the emirate.

India was the top source country with the highest total estimated FDI capital into Dubai, accounting for 21.5 per cent, followed by the

US (13.7 per cent), France (11 per cent), United Kingdom (10 per cent), and Switzerland (6.9 per cent).

### **Govt extends duty-free imports of Urad till March 2026.**

Indian government has extended duty-free imports of Urad for another year until March 31, 2026. The provision was earlier in place until the end of March this year. The major Urad producing States are Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra.

### **Airtel, Jio sign deal with Elon Musk's SpaceX to bring Starlink to India**

Telecom firms Airtel and Jio are teaming up with SpaceX to bring Starlink's satellite internet to India, which will allow them to provide their services in the most remote areas of the country. The deal for both Airtel and Jio depends on SpaceX getting the required approvals to sell Starlink in India.

Starlink is a satellite internet service that provides high-speed, low-latency broadband using a network of low Earth orbit satellites

## **Sports**

### **Deepti Sharma takes fifth spot in ICC Women's all-rounders rankings.**

India's Deepti Sharma has surpassed New Zealand's Amelia Kerr to climb one spot and break into the top five of the latest ICC Women's all-rounders rankings.

The 27-year-old Indian now occupies the fifth spot with 344 points, in a list headed by Australia's Ashleigh Gardner.

### **Sports Ministry revokes WFI suspension.**

The Union Sports Ministry has revoked the 'suspension' of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) paving the way for the National Sports Federation's smooth functioning and the wrestlers' participation in international events. The Ministry had derecognised the WFI on December 24, 2023 on grounds of "lapses regarding governance and procedural integrity by the newly elected body.