

## International

### US & China agree to extend trade truce until November 10.

The US and China have agreed to extend their trade truce until November 10, just hours before new tariffs were set to take effect. In a joint statement, both countries said they will pause the planned tariff increases for another 90 days. The US will delay raising tariffs to 145 percent on Chinese goods, while China will hold off on 125 percent tariffs on US goods. Instead, current tariffs will remain 30 percent on Chinese imports to the US and 10 percent on American exports to China.

### India sends 5 tonnes of Cowpea Seeds to Fiji as humanitarian aid.

In a significant step towards solidarity with its Indo-Pacific partners, the Indian mission has handed over five metric tonnes of cowpea seeds as humanitarian assistance to the Fijian government. This was the first tranche of the seeds sent to Fiji. India sent humanitarian assistance of five metric tonnes of black-eyed cowpea seeds to Pacific partner Fiji to support agricultural production as part of its Act East Policy.

### International Youth Day observed on August 12.

International Youth Day is celebrated globally every year on August 12, recognising youth while highlighting their contributions, challenges, and potential. Established in 1999 by the UN General Assembly and first observed on 12 August 2000, this year, International Youth Day will be falling on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 on the theme “Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond.”

## National

### Union Health Secretary launches SHRESTH initiative to boost drug quality and safety.

Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava has launched the State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH) initiative in New Delhi.

SHRESTH initiative, proposed by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), aims to drive improvements in the performance of state drug regulatory authorities across India, ensuring that drug safety and quality standards are consistently met. It is a first-of-its-kind national initiative to benchmark and strengthen state drug regulatory systems through a transparent and data-driven framework.

### Lok Sabha Speaker constitutes 3 member committee to probe corruption allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, has constituted a three-member Committee to probe the allegations levelled against High Court Judge Justice Yashwant Varma, after a sum of burned cash was found at his residence in New Delhi in March this year. The three-member panel will comprise of Supreme Court Judge Justice Aravind Kumar, Chief Justice of Madras High Court Justice Maninder Mohan Shrivastava and Senior Advocate of Karnataka High Court B V Acharaya.

The Speaker informed the House that he has accepted the notices signed by 146 MPs from ruling and opposition benches for the removal of Justice Yashwant Verma.

### Parliament passes National Sports Governance and Anti-Doping Amendment Bills, 2025.

The Parliament has passed the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025 and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025 with the approval of the Rajya Sabha. The National Sports Governance Bill seeks to provide for recognition of national sports bodies and regulate their functioning. The Bill provides for the establishment of the National Olympic Committee, National Paralympic Committee, and National and Regional Sports Federations for each designated sport. The national bodies will have affiliation with respective international bodies.

The Bill empowers the centre to establish a National Sports Board which will grant recognition to the national sports bodies and register their affiliate units. The Bill also provides for constituting a National Sports Tribunal to adjudicate sports related disputes.

### Lok Sabha passes Indian Ports Bill, 2025 to boost coastal development.

The Lok Sabha has passed the Indian Ports Bill, 2025 which seeks to consolidate the law relating to ports, promote integrated port development, facilitate ease of doing business and ensure the optimum utilization of India's coastline. The bill also seeks to establish and empower State Maritime Boards for effective management of ports other than major ports, establish the Maritime State Development Council for fostering structured growth and development of the port sector. It also provides for the management of pollution, disaster, emergencies, security, safety, navigation, and data at ports.

## **302 million lifted out of poverty in India between 2011-12 and 2022-23.**

Nearly 302 million people in India were lifted out of poverty when assuming equal sharing of resources within households between 2011-12 and 2022-23. This was found in a research titled the Intra-Household Allocation of Resources and Changes in Poverty Rates of Female, Male and Children in India from 2011-12 to 2023-24.

The research was conducted by Dr. Shamika Ravi (Member, EAC-PM) and Dr. Mudit Kapoor. The research highlighted that when assuming equal distribution of household resources, national poverty rates decreased from 29.5 percent in 2011-12 to 4 percent in 2022-23, however, when accounting for unequal sharing, the poverty rate in 2011-12 was higher at 34.7 percent, which fell to 10.5 percent in 2023-24.

## **Indian Navy to commission INS Udaygiri & INS Himgiri on 26 August in Visakhapatnam.**

The Indian Navy will commission the two advanced frontline frigates-INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri simultaneously on 26th of this month at Visakhapatnam. This will be the first time that two major surface combatants from two Indian Shipyards are being commissioned at the same time.

INS Udaygiri, the second ship of the Project 17A stealth frigates, has been built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, while Himgiri is the first of P17A ships being constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Kolkata.

## **18th IOAA set begins in Mumbai.**

The 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) has kicked off in Mumbai. The prestigious event is being hosted by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, in Mumbai.

This is set to be the largest International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics till date, with a total of 288 students from 64 countries, including Ghana as an observer country, participating in this 10-day event.

## **Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav participates in World Elephant Day celebrations in Coimbatore.**

World Elephant Day is celebrated on August 12 every year. India is home to nearly sixty percent of the world's wild elephant population, with 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 identified Elephant Corridors. As part of the celebrations, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has participated in the celebrations at Coimbatore.

India has elephant corridors in the North East hills, in Eastern States, in the Ghat areas of Southern States and also in Eastern States like Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.

Project Elephant, implemented in 22 States is a centrally sponsored scheme and intends to protect elephants, their habitats and corridors. It also addresses issues of man-animal conflict and takes care of the welfare of captive elephants.

## **Business and Economy**

### **India's retail inflation falls to 8-year low at 1.55% in July.**

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's retail inflation moderated to eight year low of 1.55 per cent in July, down from 2.1 per cent in June. It is the lowest year-on-year inflation rate after June, 2017. Meanwhile, inflation in rural areas softened to 1.18 percent and at 2.05 percent in urban regions. The food inflation rate, based on the All India Consumer Food Price Index, slipped deeper into deflation at 1.76 per cent in July, the lowest since January 2019.

### **SBI halts Nayara transactions over US tariffs, sanctions risk.**

State Bank of India has ceased processing trade and foreign currency transactions for Nayara Energy due to potential US sanctions following recent tariff increases. This decision aims to prevent SBI from facing US and European Union restrictions. The move follows EU sanctions restricting Russian fuel imports and a price cap on Russian crude, impacting banks with international operations.

## **Tata's Nelco partners with Eutelsat to launch OneWeb satellite services.**

Tata Group's satellite communication arm, Nelco has signed an agreement with Eutelsat to roll out OneWeb low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite connectivity services across India. Under the pact, Nelco will work with OneWeb India Communications, Eutelsat's local operating entity, to provide secure, low-latency satellite internet for customers on land, at sea, and in the air. The service will cover India's landmass, territorial waters, and remote regions, enabling a range of government and enterprise applications.

## **Karur Vysya Bank expands footprint in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh**

Private sector Karur Vysya Bank has strengthened its footprint with the inauguration of three new branches in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It has opened a new branch in KK Nagar, Udayanpatti, Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu, Thane in Maharashtra, and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, the bank's Managing Director and CEO Ramesh Babu said. The new branches, which were inaugurated would offer a comprehensive range of banking services including accounts, deposits and loans.

## **GitHub CEO Thomas Dohmke to step down.**

GitHub CEO Thomas Dohmke will leave his position at the end of the year. He joined the developer platform from Microsoft in 2021. GitHub serves as a pipeline for developers into Microsoft's Windows and Azure ecosystems.

## **Sports**

### **World Games, China: Namrata Batra scripts history by winning country's first-ever medal in Wushu.**

India's Namrata Batra has scripted history by winning a silver medal in Wushu in the women's 52 kg final at the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China. She went down 2-0 to local favourite Mengyue Chen in the final. It was India's first-ever medal in wushu at the World Games and the country's second podium finish at the ongoing edition after Rishabh Yadav's bronze in men's compound archery.

### **Shubman Gill named ICC men's player of the month for July.**

India's Test captain Shubman Gill has been named the ICC men's Player of the Month for July, 2025. Gill has landed the Player of the Month award after a stiff competition from England Test skipper Ben Stokes and South African all-rounder Wiaan Mulder. This is Gill's fourth Player of the Month honour, having won previously in February this year and in January and September 2023.

### **Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships 2025 : India Bags 27 Medals.**

In Boxing, India's campaign at the Asian Under-19 and Under-22 Boxing Championships 2025, ended on a high note with Ritika winning gold in the women's 80-plus kg category. The event, held in Bangkok, saw India's teams win a total of 27 medals across both age groups. The U19 team performed strongly, finishing second overall with 14 medals including 3 gold, 7 silver, and 4 bronze. While the U22 team secured 13 medals, including 1 gold, 4 silver, and 8 bronze, with Ritika being the only gold medallist in this group.