

International

India at 131st position in Global Gender Gap Index 2025.

India has ranked 131 out of 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025, slipping two places from its position last year. India's overall gender parity score improved by 0.3 points compared to 2024. India's overall gender parity score for 2025 stands at 64.4%, compared to the global average of 68.8% across all 148 countries assessed.

Iceland retained the top spot, followed by Finland, Norway, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

Israel strikes Iran nuclear sites and military leadership.

Israel has launched air strikes on Iran last night, targeting its nuclear program and senior military leaders in an attack that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said will last many days. The attack plunges West Asia into fresh uncertainty, increasing the risk of a regional war as Israel braces for Iran's retaliation. General Hossein Salami, the commander-in-chief of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard (IRGC), was among those killed in the attacks. He was among the country's most powerful and influential figures.

Trump says U.S.-China Trade Deal reached.

US President Donald Trump has announced that the trade deal with China is done after the talks between the two countries in London this week. As a part of a trade agreement, China will supply rare earths upfront to the US, while Chinese students will get US visas. China will maintain its current 10 percent tariffs on goods imported from the U.S, while the US will keep 55 percent tariffs on Chinese imports.

National

Air India confirms death of 241 people onboard.

Air India has confirmed that 241 people on board its London-bound flight were killed when the aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff from the Ahmedabad airport yesterday. The Boeing 787-8 aircraft was carrying 242 passengers and crew members. The passengers comprised 169 Indian nationals, 53 British nationals, seven Portuguese nationals and one Canadian national. Former Gujarat Chief Minister and BJP leader Vijay Rupani was among the dead.

The plane involved was a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, delivered to Air India in 2014.

India-Sri Lanka maritime links strengthen with extended ferry support.

The Indian Government has extended financial assistance for another year to support the passenger India-Sri Lanka ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai. The move is in line with India's continued commitment to strengthening regional connectivity and people-to-people ties with Sri Lanka.

The assistance will continue under the Viability Gap Funding mechanism, with over 300 million Sri Lankan Rupees earmarked annually. This support helps ensure affordable fares and uninterrupted service by covering critical logistical and operational expenses.

India's first eco-park to come up in Delhi.

The Delhi government has unveiled plans to build India's first dedicated e-waste eco park in Holambi Kalan. Spanning 11.4 acres, the facility will be developed under a public-private partnership (PPP) spanning 15 years, following a global tender led by the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC). The facility is designed to process up to 51,000 tonnes of e-waste annually, covering all 106 categories under the E-waste Management Rules 2022.

INS Guldar set to become India's first underwater museum.

The decommissioned Indian Navy warship INS Guldar is set to become India's first underwater museum and artificial coral reef, located near Nivati Rock in Sindhudurg's Vengurla taluka, Maharashtra. The INS Guldar, a 1,120-tonne vessel measuring 83.9 metres long and 9.7 metres wide, was retired on January 12, 2024. Gifted to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) by the Indian Navy at no cost.

Environmentally cleaned by April 15, 2025, the ship is now ready for sinking near Nivati Rock, a task assigned to Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited on April 16, 2025. Once submerged, the vessel will foster coral growth, creating a vibrant marine ecosystem.

Over one lakh Yoga events to mark International Day of Yoga on June 21

On International Day of Yoga on the 21st of this month, more than one lakh yoga events based on a common yoga protocol will be conducted simultaneously from 6:30 to 7:40 in the morning. This year's theme is One Earth, One Health.

Union AYUSH Minister Prataprao Jadhav said that the main event will be held at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate. He said, more than 65 thousand organizations from across the nation have registered to host the Yoga Sangam. Mr Jadhav added that the representatives from around 40 countries will participate in the main Yoga Day event at Visakhapatnam.

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurates Lok Samvardhan Parv to showcase Minority artisans.

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated the Lok Samvardhan Parv at Raj Ghat in New Delhi. The event, which will culminate on Sunday, showcases the government's key schemes, programmes, and achievements under the vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. It also highlights the continuous efforts of the government towards the economic empowerment of minority communities, especially artisans and traditional craftspeople.

Centre approves procurement of over 1 Lakh MT pulses and oilseeds for summer 2025-26.

The Centre has approved the procurement of a total quantity of 54 thousand and 166 metric tonnes of moong under the Price Support Scheme in the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat for the summer crop season 2025-26. The Government has also approved the procurement of 50 thousand 750 metric tonnes of groundnut in Uttar Pradesh for Summer Crop Season 2025-26. The Centre has also permitted the procurement of tur, urad, and masur under the Price Support Scheme up to 100 percent of the production of the respective State for the procurement year 2024-25.

Goan feni gets GI-tag.

Goa's Ozzo Feni becomes India's first feni to receive a Geographical Indication tag, protecting its unique preparation and enhancing its marketability. Feni is a traditional Indian spirit, well-known in Goa, made from the fermentation and double distillation of either cashew apples or coconut sap. Feni was introduced to India by the Portuguese missionaries in the 1600s when they came to trade.

Maldives names Katrina Kaif as global tourism ambassador.

Bollywood actor Katrina Kaif was named the global tourism ambassador for the Maldives. The Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC/ Visit Maldives) has announced that they were delighted to have Kaif, a prominent face in the Indian film industry, as the Global Brand Ambassador for the Maldives.

Javed Akhtar receives Dostoevsky Star Award for cultural contribution.

Veteran screenwriter, lyricist, and poet Javed Akhtar has been honoured with the Dostoevsky Star Award by the Russian House in Mumbai. The award is presented for his role in promoting cultural dialogue and preserving literary heritage. Javed Akhtar becomes the first Indian writer to receive the Dostoevsky Star Award for promoting cultural and literary dialogue.

Business and Economy

DBT surges 90-fold in decade, says FM.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that there has been a more than ninety times increase in direct benefit transfer (DBT) in just a decade. Ms. Sitharaman said that from over 7 thousand crores in 2014, DBT has risen to 6.83 lakh crore in the last financial year. The Minister also stated that India also leads the world in real-time payments as transactions of more than 260 lakh crore rupees were processed in 2024-25. She added that nearly 18 thousand 6 hundred crore transactions by volume are being handled annually.

Centre cuts customs duty on crude edible oils from 20 to 10 percent.

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. This move aims to reduce the landed cost and retail prices of edible oils, providing relief to consumers and helping to curb overall inflation. The reduced duty will also encourage domestic refining and ensure fair compensation for farmers

DFCC Bank makes green bond listing on India's NSE IX.

DFCC Bank PLC of Sri Lanka has become the first foreign corporate to list a bond on India's National Stock Exchange - International Exchange (NSE IX) at GIFT City. The Rs. 2.5 billion Green Bond's listing on NSE IX provides DFCC Bank with enhanced access to international capital markets and underscores its dedication to cross-border sustainable finance.

RBI grants Vishweshwar Sahakari Bank Scheduled Bank status.

Pune based Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB)- Vishweshwar Sahakari Bank has been granted the status of a Scheduled Bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI granted Scheduled Bank status to a UCB after a gap of more than two decades, marking the revival of a long-awaited process.

With a business mix of over Rs 3,800 crore, a net profit of Rs 17 crore, and a network of 30 branches, Vishweshwar Cooperative Bank has already established a strong foothold in urban Maharashtra.

Poonawalla Fincorp launches digital-first business loan product for MSMEs.

Poonawalla Fincorp Limited (PFL), a non-banking financial company under the Cyrus Poonawalla Group, has launched industry-first digital loan offering tailored for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Named 'Business Loan 24/7', the product is designed to provide instant approval through a fully digital process, underpinned by an advanced risk-first assessment model.

Sports

ISSF WC 2025: Sift Kaur Samra wins bronze in 50m rifle 3 positions.

Indian shooter Sift Kaur Samra has secured a bronze medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Munich, Germany. Sift shot 453.1 in the final to claim third place. This was India's second medal at the Munich World Cup, following Elavenil Valarivan's bronze in the women's 10m air rifle event.

PSA Awards 2024-25: India's Anahat Singh bags two Player of the Season honours.

India top women's squash player Anahat Singh bagged twin honours at the PSA Awards 2024-25, winning the Women's Challenger Player of the Season and sharing the Women's Young Player of the Season title with Amina Orfi of Egypt. Anahat Singh's consistency through the Challenger circuit made her one of the breakout stars of the 2024-25 squash season.