

International

Ecuadorean President Noboa re-elected for second term.

Incumbent Ecuadorean President Daniel Noboa won a second four-year term in the country's Presidential elections. He won 55.85 percent of the votes against his left-wing challenger, Luisa González. Ecuador has one of the highest homicide rates in South America. President Noboa has managed to reduce it to some extent, his use of the military on the streets and the construction of new high-security prisons to fight drug trafficking have also led to a surge in violence.

Russia reiterates its support for India's bid for permanent seat in UNSC.

Russia has reiterated its support for India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and expressed optimism that the partnership between the two countries will continue to grow in the years ahead. In a message shared on Telegram on the 78th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Russian Foreign Ministry congratulated India on the occasion.

Japan records sharpest population decline.

In Japan, population data released showed declining trend for the 14th straight year. As per the data, Japan's population is down by around nine lakh from the previous year which is the largest drop ever recorded. It said that total population of the country, stood at around 12 crore 30 lakh, as of 1st October, 2024. People aged 75 and over rose to around 17 per cent of the total population. The working-age population (ages 15-64) dropped to 59.6 per cent of the total population

National

India becomes 4th nation having capabilities to shoot down fixed wing drone by laser beam.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has announced the successful trial of a Mk-II(A) Laser- Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system mastering the

technology of disabling missiles, drones and smaller projectiles. India has joined the list of selected countries, including the US, China, and Russia, that have shown such a capability. The Centre for High Energy Systems & Sciences CHESS, Hyderabad, a premier Centre of Defence Research and Development Organisation DRDO conducted a successful field demonstration of the Land version of Vehicle mounted Laser Directed Weapon DEW MK-II(A) at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.

Startup QNu Labs launches world's 1st unique platform Q-Shield.

QNu Labs, one of the startups selected by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the National Quantum Mission, has launched the world's first and unique platform, Q-Shield. It empowers enterprises to protect their critical infrastructure. It also enables seamless cryptography management across any environment, including cloud, on-premises, or hybrid

Incubated at IIT Madras Research Park in 2016, QNu Labs is revolutionizing cybersecurity with quantum-safe solutions, positioning India as a global leader in quantum cryptography.

Telangana becomes first state to implement SC categorization Act

Telangana had issued a government order on the implementation of Scheduled Castes (SC) categorisation, making it the first state in the country to do so officially.

The Telangana state government has officially implemented the Scheduled Caste (SC) Categorisation of Reservations Act 2025, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar. The Telangana government had earlier appointed a commission headed by retired High Court judge Justice Shameem Akther on SC categorisation, which made recommendations that the 59 Scheduled Caste (SC) communities be divided into three groups viz I, II, and III for the total reservations of 15 per cent in government jobs and education.

Centre planning ₹10 lakh crore investment to rewire highways

The Centre is planning to invest ₹10 lakh crore over the next two years to strengthen highways across the country, with special focus on the Northeast, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said. Gadkari said 784 highway projects are going to be implemented in eastern states at an estimated cost of Rs 3,73,484 crore, covering 21,355 km.

Business and Economy

PNB loan fraud case: Mehul Choksi was arrested.

The Belgium government confirmed that fugitive jeweller Mehul Choksi has been arrested in Antwerp following an extradition request by Indian investigation agencies. Wanted for his alleged involvement in the Rs 13,000-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan fraud case, Choksi fled India in January 2018.

Major banks cut lending, deposit rates following RBI's repo rate cut.

Major Indian banks have cut their lending and deposit rates following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 50 basis points cut in repo rate in 2025. HDFC Bank cut its deposit interest rates by 25 basis points. A basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage. Public sector lender SBI cut repo rate linked lending rates by 25 basis points to 8.25% and external benchmark lending rates to 8.65%. Bank of Maharashtra also announced to cut external benchmark rates to 8.65%.

Nvidia plans to manufacture AI chips in the U.S. for the first time.

Nvidia has announced that it will produce its artificial intelligence super computers in the United States for the first time. It has commissioned more than one million square feet of manufacturing space to build and test its specialised Blackwell chips in Arizona and AI supercomputers in Texas — part of an investment the company said will produce up to half a trillion dollars of AI infrastructure in the next four years.

FPIs have withdrawn ₹31,575 crore from equities in April over tariff fears

Foreign investors have pulled out ₹31,575 crore from India's equity markets so far this month in the wake of turbulence created by sweeping tariffs imposed by the U.S. on most nations, including India. This came following a net investment of ₹30,927 crore in the six trading sessions from March 21 to March 28. This infusion helped reduce the overall outflow for March to ₹3,973 crore.

Sports

Magnus Carlsen wins Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025.

World number one Magnus Carlsen of Norway has won the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025 in Paris, France. He defeated American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura with a 1.5-0.5 match victory. With this, Carlsen won the 2 lakh US Dollars, followed by Nakamura, who won 1 lakh 40 thousand US Dollars.

Archery World Cup: Dhiraj Bommadevara claims individual bronze.

In Archery, India's Dhiraj Bommadevara has won a bronze medal at the Archery World Cup 2025 in Florida, USA. Dhiraj defeated Andres Temino Mediel in the Men's Individual Recurve event with a scoreline of 6-4. This also marked Dhiraj's second medal of the tournament. With this win, India concluded its Archery World Cup campaign with a total of four medals, one gold, one silver, and two bronze. The Indian team finished fourth in the overall medal tally.

ATP Rankings: Alcaraz returns to No. 2 spot after maiden Monte Carlo Masters title

Carlos Alcaraz returned to the number two spot in the latest ATP Rankings after his maiden Monte Carlo Masters title. Spain's Alcaraz defeated Italy's Lorenzo Musetti 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 in the final to win his sixth title at the ATP 1000 level.

McIlroy wins Masters to complete career Grand Slam.

Rory McIlroy became the sixth player to win the career Grand Slam of Masters, Open Championship, US Open and US PGA Championship by winning the Augusta Masters with a play-off win against Justin Rose. While Tiger Woods had become the last player to achieve the feat before McIlroy did the same. Gene Sarazan, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player to have won all the majors once in their career.

MotoGP Qatar Grand Prix 2025: Marc Marquez wins.

Marc Marquez survived a first-lap collision with his brother Alex to win the Qatar MotoGP, for a seventh victory in eight races this season. Alex Marquez ran into the back of his brother's Ducati at the second corner. Marc Marquez lost ground but recovered to finish 1.8sec ahead of Spaniard Maverick Vinales in second, with Francesco Bagnaia of Italy completing the podium.