

## International

### Iraq and Syria explore revival of Baniyas pipeline after two decades

Iraq and Syria have agreed to study the potential reactivation of the Baniyas pipeline to transport Iraqi oil through Syrian territory. The Kirkuk-Baniyas pipeline, built in 1952 to carry crude from Iraq's Kirkuk fields to the Mediterranean port of Baniyas, has been out of service since 2003 after heavy damage during the US-led invasion of Iraq. Reviving it could provide Iraq with an alternative route to Mediterranean markets, particularly after a 2023 arbitration ruling closed the Iraq-Turkey pipeline, limiting access to international buyers.

### Brazil launches aid package to counter US tariff hike

Brazil has launched a slew of measures to support exporters hit by a 50 per cent tariff imposed by the US government. The initiative, called Sovereign Brazil, provides around 5.562 billion US dollars in affordable loans, tax breaks, and other measures, prioritising small businesses and those dealing in perishable foods.

## National

### Kargil's apricots make debut in Saudi Arabia

Fresh apricots from India's Kargil district in Ladakh have been introduced to Saudi Arabian consumers for the first time, marking a significant milestone in India-Saudi agricultural trade relations.

The launch took place at Lulu Hypermarket in Riyadh.

The Kargil apricot launch represents the latest success story of India's One District One Product scheme, which aims to promote unique local products on international markets while supporting regional economies and traditional agricultural practices.

### Partition Horrors Remembrance Day:14<sup>th</sup> August

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is observed on 14th August every year to remember the immense human suffering and tragedy caused by the Partition of India in 1947. The day commemorates the displacement of nearly 15 million people across the newly drawn borders of India and Pakistan, making it one of the largest mass migrations in human history.

### Njattiyela Sreedharan, creator of Dravidian dictionary, passes away

Renowned self-taught linguist Njattiyela Sreedharan, who compiled the four-language Dravidian dictionary Chathur Dravida Bhasha Padhapparichayam, has passed away.

A former irrigation department employee, he linked Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, and Telugu in his 860-page work, which has been hailed as a linguistic milestone.

Sreedharan is remembered as a cultural bridge-builder and "Kannur's Hermann Gundert."

### Indian aquanauts hoist Tiranga 5,000 mts below sea level

For the first time, Indian aquanauts have plunged 5,000 metres below sea level and planted an Indian flag.

Two Indian aquanauts marked their presence by planting an Indian flag in the Atlantic Ocean as part of a collaboration between the National Institute of Ocean Technology and France.

### SC orders ECI to publish names, reasons for 65 lakh voter exclusions in Bihar

The Supreme Court, in an interim order, directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to release booth-wise lists of nearly 65 lakh electors excluded from Bihar's draft roll during the Special Intensive Revision.

The Court said voters have a "right to know" why their names were dropped due to death, migration, duplication, or untraceability.

Lists must be published online and at BLO/panchayat offices, with reasons searchable via EPIC number.

Aggrieved voters may file objections using Aadhaar.

## **Business and Economy**

### **India's trade deficit narrows to \$31.3 billion in April–July 2025**

India's overall trade deficit declined 3.7% to \$31.3 billion in April–July 2025, driven by robust growth in services exports, according to Commerce Ministry data. Total exports rose 5.2% to \$277.6 billion, outpacing imports, which grew 4.2% to \$308.9 billion. Merchandise exports rose 3.1% to \$149.2 billion, while imports increased 5.4%, widening the merchandise trade deficit to \$94.8 billion.

However, non-petroleum exports surged 7.7%. Services exports grew strongly at 7.9% to \$128.4 billion, while imports remained nearly flat, helping narrow the overall deficit.

### **S&P upgrades India to BBB with Stable outlook**

S&P Global Ratings upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-' and short-term rating to 'A-2' from 'A-3', marking the country's first upgrade by S&P in 18 years.

S&P noted India's 8.8% average GDP growth (FY22–FY24), among the fastest globally, and projected 6.5% growth in FY26.

## **Sports**

### **Chess: German Grandmaster Vincent Keymer wins Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025**

In Chess, German Grandmaster Vincent Keymer has won the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025 with one round to spare, becoming the event's first sole champion in history.

The 20-year-old secured the title after drawing with Dutch Grandmaster Jorden van Foreest.

His performance also pushed him into the world's Top 10 in live ratings for the first time.

### **Navy wins Armed Forces Inter Services Squash Championship**

The Indian Navy has won the Armed Forces Inter Services Squash Championship 2025-26 by defeating the Indian Air Force by 2-1 during the final match played at the Indian Air Force's Base Repair Depot at Chandigarh.

The championship, held from August 10-14, 2025, featured four teams – Army Red, Army Green, Air Force, and Indian Navy – and aimed to select the best players to represent the Services Squash Team in the upcoming National Squash Championship.

### **Logo & Mascot of 1st Khelo India Water Sports unveiled**

The logo and mascot of the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) were unveiled in Srinagar.

The Himalayan Kingfisher will be the mascot for the Games, while the logo captures the essence of Kashmir, featuring a Shikara gliding on Dal Lake, framed by snow-capped mountains and pine trees.

The event will be held at the city's iconic Dal Lake.

The KIWSF will be hosted by the J&K Sports Council in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs.