

## International

### Axiom-4 mission departs ISS.

The return journey of Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and three other crew members of the Axiom-4 mission has begun. The crew capsule was separated from the International Space Station (ISS) and will now execute a series of departure burns to move away from the space station. It added that Dragon will re-enter the Earth's atmosphere and splash down in around 22.5 hours off the coast of California.

### Leila Aboulela wins the 2025 PEN Pinter Prize.

Sudanese-Scottish author Leila Aboulela was named winner of the 2025 PEN Pinter Prize for her writing on migration, faith and the lives of women. Her six novels and two short story collections include *The Translator*, *Elsewhere*, *Home* and, most recently, 2023's *River Spirit*. She will receive the award on 10 October at the British Library in London, where she will announce her choice of winner for the PEN Pinter Writer of Courage award, given to an author "active in defence of freedom of expression, often at great risk to their own safety and liberty".

The PEN Pinter Prize is awarded annually to writers resident in the UK, Ireland, the Commonwealth or the former Commonwealth.

### Varsha Deshpande receives 2025 UN Population Award.

Indian women's rights activist Varsha Deshpande has been awarded the 2025 United Nations Population Award in the individual category, in recognition of her decades-long work promoting gender equality and reproductive rights.

Ms. Deshpande, secretary of the Maharashtra-based Dalit Mahila Vikas Mandal, was recognised for her pioneering work over more than 35 years to combat gender-based violence and discrimination, particularly gender-biased sex selection.

### Australia announces 34 Maitri Awards to boost ties with India.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong has announced the 34 recipients of this year's Maitri Grants, Fellowships and Scholarships, aimed at promoting Australia-India ties.

Maitri Grants, administered by the Centre for Australia-India Relations, aims to support greater exchange and collaboration with India across technology, business, education and culture.

## National

### India signs long-term fertilizer supply agreements with Saudi Arabia.

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers JP Nadda concluded his three-day visit to Saudi Arabia, securing crucial agreements that will significantly enhance India's fertilizer supply chain and strengthen bilateral cooperation in health and pharmaceutical sectors. The visit, focused primarily on enhancing bilateral cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia in chemicals and fertilizers. These agreements will supply an enhanced 3.1 million metric tons of Diammonium Phosphate fertilizer per annum for five years from 2025-26 onwards, with provision for further extension of five years with mutual consent.

India's imports of DAP fertilizer from Saudi Arabia totalled 1.9 million metric tons in 2024-25, reflecting a 17 percent increase over the 1.6 million metric tons imported during FY 2023-24.

### President Murmu appoints new Governors for Haryana and Goa, LG for Ladakh.

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh as the new Governor of Haryana, and senior politician Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju as Governor of Goa. Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, has been named as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

The President has also accepted the resignation of Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) from the post of Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

### DRDO, IAF successfully test indigenous Astra Missile from Su-30 MKI.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) have successfully conducted the flight-test of indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile (BVRAAM) 'Astra' equipped with indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker from Su-30 Mk-I platform off the coast of Odisha.

During the tests, two launches were carried out against high-speed unmanned aerial targets at different ranges, target aspects and launch platform conditions. In both the cases, the missiles destroyed the targets with pin-point accuracy.

### **‘Sanchar Mitra Scheme’ scaled up nationwide to boost digital literacy**

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has expanded its ‘Sanchar Mitra Scheme’ across India, transforming it from a pilot project into a national programme to empower youth as digital ambassadors.

Initially piloted in select institutions, the scheme will now engage student volunteers — called Sanchar Mitras — to spread awareness on digital safety, cyber fraud prevention, EMF radiation, and responsible mobile use.

Volunteers will receive training from the National Communications Academy–Technology (NCA-T) and DoT’s Media Wing, gaining exposure to advanced telecom technologies like 5G, 6G, AI, and cyber security. Sanchar Mitras will conduct community outreach, work with NGOs, and promote safe digital practices.

### **Veteran actor Saroja Devi passes away.**

Veteran South Indian actor B Saroja Devi died due to age-related ailments at her residence in Malleswaram, Bengaluru. She is also known as the first female superstar of Kannada cinema. Saroja Devi is a popular actress in Karnataka and has done films in all South languages and Hindi. In her 70 years of film career, Saroja Devi acted in nearly 200 films across languages.

### **Nitin Gadkari inaugurates India’s second longest cable-stayed sigandur bridge in Karnataka.**

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated India’s second longest cable-stayed Sigandur bridge across the Sharavathi backwaters in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district in Karnataka. The bridge between Sagara and Marakutika covers 2.44 kms and is 16 meters wide. Constructed at a cost of over 470 crore rupees, this bridge will reduce the distance from Sagara town to Sigandur where the famous Chowdeshwari temple is situated.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Retail inflation falls to 2.10% in June**

India’s retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased to 2.10 per cent for the month of June, down from 2.82 per cent in May, data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed. The decline in headline and food inflation is mainly on account of favourable base effect and easing of inflation of vegetables, pulses and products, meat and fish, cereals and products, sugar and confectionery, milk and products and spices.

### **Karnataka Bank names Raghavendra Srinivas Bhat as interim MD, CEO.**

Karnataka Bank has named Raghavendra Srinivas Bhat as the interim Managing Director and CEO. This follows the resignation of Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma, who stepped down citing personal reasons. Bhat, previously the Chief Operating Officer, will hold the position for three months. Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma’s departure had earlier impacted the bank’s stock performance.

### **Citigroup’s India commercial banking chief Bhanu Vohra exits.**

Bhanu Vohra, Citigroup’s India head of commercial banking, is departing after 24 years with the company. Vohra, who led the team providing global banking solutions to Indian mid-sized firms, has resigned. Vohra was a managing director who joined Citi in 2000 and worked in a variety of roles including in operations, transaction banking and global markets.

### **Public sector banks surge to 43% market share in home loans.**

Public sector banks now lead in home loan financing. They increased their market share significantly in the last four years. Data shows their share rose to 43% in FY25. Private banks saw a decrease in their share during this period. Competitive rates and government initiatives are driving this growth. Overall credit growth of PSU banks has surpassed private banks.

As per the June 2025 Financial Stability Report (FSR) of the central bank, in FY25 the overall credit growth of PSU banks outpaced that of

private banks after more than a decade, with home loans being among the primary growth drivers in the retail loans category.

### **India now leads the world in fast digital payments powered by UPI: IMF.**

India now leads the world in fast digital payments, powered by the rapid growth of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), according to the latest fintech note released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The report also pointed out a decline in the use of other payment instruments, including debit and credit cards, as more consumers and businesses shift to UPI for convenience and speed. UPI now processes more than 18 billion transactions per month and dominates other electronic retail payments in India.

The report highlighted India's digital transformation, noting that UPI has become the largest retail fast payment system globally by volume.

### **IIFL Home Finance gets \$100 million from AIIB.**

IIFL Home Finance has secured USD 100 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to boost affordable housing finance for economically weaker sections and lower-income groups. This partnership will promote green building standards and support sustainable urban development in line with India's climate goals. The investment aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U 2.0).

## **Sports**

### **Chelsea wins first FIFA Club World Cup title over PSG.**

Chelsea Football Club made history by winning the first-ever FIFA Club World Cup, beating Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) 3-0 in a stunning final at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. Cole Palmer became a star, scoring twice in eight minutes and setting up Joao Pedro for the third just before halftime. Chelsea finished as top scorers in the tournament with 17 goals; one more than PSG, Manchester City and Bayern who were all on 16.

### **Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy: India lose 3rd Test at Lord's.**

India has lost the third Test match of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against England on final day at Lord's in London. India lost all wickets scoring 170 runs chasing target of 193 set by the hosts. On the Day 4, the hosts were bowled out for 192.

Earlier, India were bundled out for 387 in their first innings, equalling England's first innings total of 387. England is now leading the five-match Test series 2-1.

### **India's U-20 freestyle wrestling team secures second position.**

India's U-20 freestyle wrestling team finished second at the 2025 U-20 Wrestling Championship in Bishkek, securing 2 gold, 1 silver, and 5 bronze medals, with a total of 157 points. Iran claimed the championship title. Ankush in 57kg category won gold while Amit in 79kg category won the second gold after a close 5-4 win over Iran.