

International

Congo reeling under heavy rains and floods; 72 dead.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, heavy rains and flooding have struck several provinces, with the capital Kinshasa among the hardest hit. 11 health zones in Kinshasa have been impacted, with more than 5,000 people displaced. At least 72 people have died, and 170 have been injured due to torrential rains and resulting floods.

Breakthrough Prize 2025 winners announced.

The Breakthrough Prize Foundation has announced the winners of the 2025 Breakthrough Prizes. The Breakthrough Prize – popularly known as the “Oscars of Science. Six Breakthrough Prizes of \$3 million each were awarded in Life Sciences, Fundamental Physics, and Mathematics.

The 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics was awarded to 13,508 physicists across four collaborative projects at CERN, the European particle physics laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland.

The Mathematics Breakthrough Prize was awarded to Dennis Gaitsgory for “his central role in the proof of the geometric Langlands conjecture.”

Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences Awarded to Daniel J. Drucker, Joel Habener, Jens Juul Holst, Lotte Bjerre Knudsen and Svetlana Mojsov; Alberto Ascherio and Stephen L. Hauser; and David R. Liu

The awards were established in 2013 by Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan, former Google chief Sergey Brin, genomics company 23&Me founder Anne Wojcicki, and tech investor couple Yuri and Julia Milner.

Singer Katy Perry launches into space with all-female crew on Blue Origin rocket.

Pop star Katy Perry and five other women were launched into space on a Blue Origin rocket and successfully returned to Earth, marking the first all-female spaceflight in more than 60 years. The crew lifted off from West Texas at 9:31 a.m. and travelled to the edge of space, where they experienced a brief period of weightlessness

before returning to Earth in a flight lasting around 11 minutes,

The spaceflight was a high-profile success for Bezos' New Shepard launch vehicle, which has been developed for space tourism.

The six-person crew also included Bezos' fiancée Lauren Sanchez, CBS host Gayle King, former NASA rocket scientist Aisha Bowe, scientist Amanda Nguyen and film producer Kerianne Flynn.

NASA sacks Indian-origin DEI chief Neela Rajendra.

NASA's jet propulsion laboratory has sacked Neela Rajendra, the Indian-origin head of its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) unit, from her position. The dismissal came follows US President Donald Trump's sweeping executive order aimed at dismantling DEI initiatives across all federal agencies. President Trump's executive order argues that DEI initiatives promote division, misuse of public funds, and have contributed to discriminatory practices.

Nobel Prize winning Peruvian writer and politician Mario Vargas Llosa dies.

Nobel Prize winning Peruvian writer and politician Mario Vargas Llosa is dead. He was 89. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature, "for his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individual's resistance, revolt, and defeat" back in 2010. He was a prolific author and essayist with such celebrated novels as "The Time of the Hero" and "Feast of the Goat," and won myriad prizes.

He ran as a candidate in the Peruvian presidential election of 1990.

National

IMD predicts 2025 seasonal rainfall likely to be above normal

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that India can expect above-normal monsoon season this year. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced in its long-range forecast predicting rainfall to be around 105% of the long-period average.

The June-September rainy season delivers nearly 70% of India's annual rainfall and remains vital for the economy.

DRDO conducts successful Release Trials of Long-Range Glide Bomb 'Gaurav'.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the Release Trials of Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) 'Gaurav' from the Su-30 MKI aircraft. LRGB 'Gaurav' is a 1,000 kg class glide bomb, designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat, Armament Research and Development Establishment and Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.

India's first creative tech institute coming to Mumbai

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Maharashtra, Maharashtra Film, Stage and Cultural Development Corporation Ltd. (MFSCDCL), and the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) for the establishment of a world-class institute dedicated to the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector.

The Institute will be located at the iconic Dadasaheb Phalke Film City in Goregaon and is envisioned as a premier centre for education, research, innovation, and skill development in the AVGC-XR domain. This is India's first national-level institution dedicated to the creative sector.

SC sets six-month deadline for trial in child trafficking cases.

The Supreme Court of India had laid down stringent guidelines for the prevention and expedited trial of child trafficking related offences across the country. The Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan directed High Courts across the country to issue directions to lower courts to complete trials in child trafficking cases in six months. The top court also mandated that such cases be heard on a day-to-day basis to prevent delays in justice.

Padma Shri awardee & green warrior Vanajeevi Ramaiah dies.

Popular green crusader of Telangana and Padma Shri awardee Daripalli Ramaiah died in Khammam. In 2017, the Indian government awarded him the Padma Shri.

Also, called the "tree-man" of Telangana, Ramaiah embarked on a lifetime mission of developing plantation and conservation of trees. He planted one crore saplings in different parts of Khammam district and even used part of his three-acre land to grow trees.

Kathak legend Kumudini Lakhia passes away.

Eminent Kathak exponent and choreographer Kumudini Lakhia passed away at her residence in Ahmedabad at the age of 95 due to an age-related ailment. She also worked as a choreographer in Hindi film "Umrao Jaan" (1981), amongst others. Lakhia was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, on the Republic Day this year in recognition of her lifelong dedication to Kathak.

Business and Economy

Exports rise to 0.7% to \$41.97 billion in March.

India's exports grew marginally by 0.7 % to \$41.97 billion in March, while the trade deficit stood at \$21.54 billion in the month.

Imports increased by 11.3% year-on-year to \$63.51 billion in March. Cumulatively, during the 2024-25 fiscal year (April-March), the country's exports moved up a tad by 0.08 per cent to USD 437.42 billion, while imports climbed by 6.62 percent to USD 720.24 billion.

Retail inflation eases to 3.34%

India's retail inflation eased to a five-and-a-half-year low of 3.34% in March, from 3.61% in the previous month, mostly due to lower food prices. Vegetables, eggs, and pulses were significantly cheaper, though edible oils and fruits continued to see high inflation.

Swiggy enters ‘gig worker’ services market with Pyng app.

Food delivery service provider Swiggy is diversifying its offering with a platform that lets people find professional freelancers. Through the new Pyng app, users can find verified professional freelancers across several specializations. Pyng uses AI to make access to verified professional more efficient and dependable.

Sports

Venue announced for cricket’s Olympics return at LA28.

At the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, Cricket will be played in a temporary, purpose-built venue at the Fairgrounds in Pomona. Pomona, located in Southern California, is approximately 50 kilometres from Los Angeles.

The tournament will be played in the fast-paced T20 format with six teams each in both men’s and women’s competitions.

Making a return to the Olympics after more than a century, the sport last appeared at Paris 1900. The Los Angeles Olympic Games are scheduled to take place from July 14 to 30 in 2028.

ISSF World Cup: India wins gold, silver, bronze

In shooting, India made a strong start to their ISSF World Cup campaign in Lima, winning gold, silver, and bronze on the opening day. In the Women’s 10m Air Pistol event, young sensation Suruchi Singh clinched gold, beating Olympic medallist compatriot Manu Bhaker, who settled with the silver.