

## International

### Brazil to host BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro in July.

The Brazilian government has announced that the next BRICS summit, featuring Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and other member countries, will be held in Rio de Janeiro on July 6-7.

The summit will include leaders from 20 member and associate countries.

BRICS was established in 2009 by Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2010 as a counterbalance to the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations. Last year, the bloc expanded by adding Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia has also been invited to join. Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Malaysia have formally applied for membership, and several other countries have expressed interest.

### United States announces Europe not to participate in Ukraine's peace talks.

The United States of America has announced that Europe will not participate in Ukraine's peace talks. Keith Kellogg, Assistant to the US President and Special Envoy for Russia and Ukraine, made this statement during the global security conference in Munich, Germany.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte has also urged Europeans to get their act together in supporting Ukraine.

### Zelensky calls for creation of armed forces of Europe amid Ukraine conflict

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for the creation of an armed forces of Europe, saying his country's fight against Russia has laid the foundation for it.

Zelenskyy emphasized on the need for a unified European military force saying that Europe cannot ignore the possibility that the U.S. might withdraw support on key security issues.

### US army to no longer allow transgender to enlist in military

The U.S. Army has officially announced that it will no longer allow transgender individuals to enlist in the military and will cease providing gender transition procedures.

The policy change follows an executive order signed by President Donald Trump on January 27, which banned transgender individuals from entering the armed forces and directed the Pentagon to determine a policy for transgender service members within 30 days.

### WAVES 2025 held at Berlin Film Festival

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## Important Days

### International Childhood Cancer Day:15<sup>th</sup> February

International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD), is observed every year on February 15 to raise awareness about childhood cancer and advocating for improved treatments and support for young cancer patients and their families.

Established in 2002 by Childhood Cancer International (CCI), ICCD emphasizes the need for early detection, better healthcare accessibility, and continuous medical research.

### World Pangolin Day 2025: 15<sup>th</sup> February.

World Pangolin Day, is observed every year on the third Saturday of February, will be celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 to raise awareness about pangolins, the world's most trafficked mammals.

Conservationists and animal lovers worldwide come together on this day to educate others, promote conservation efforts, and advocate for stronger protection laws.

## National

### Lt Cdr Dilna K & Lt Cdr Roopa script history as sailing vessel INSV Tarini crosses Cape Horn.

Lieutenant Commander Dilna K and Lieutenant Commander Rupa A of the Indian Navy have achieved a historic milestone by sailing INSV Tarini past Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America, during the third phase of the 'Sagar Parikrama II' expedition.

With this remarkable feat, the two officers have earned the prestigious title of 'Cape Horners,' which is a recognition reserved for skilled sailors who successfully conquer Cape Horn.

Cape Horn is situated just over 432 nautical miles from Antarctica, making it one of the closest land points to the icy continent.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Meta announces 50,000 km Waterworth Subsea cable project.**

Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp parent company Meta has announced a new 50,000-kilometer undersea cable project, 'Waterworth,' aimed at enhancing digital connectivity between India and the US.

Project Waterworth will provide industry-leading connectivity to the US, India, Brazil, South Africa, and other key regions.

Once completed, the project will span five major continents and cover over 50,000 kilometres – longer than the Earth's circumference – making it the world's longest subsea cable project, utilizing the highest-capacity technology available.

### **Bank of India raises Rs 2,690 crore via 10-year infra bonds.**

Bank of India has raised 10 years Infrastructure Bonds of ₹2,690 crore @ 7.50% p.a, through NSE Electronic Bidding Platform. The funds raised through Long Term Bonds will be used for funding long-term projects in infrastructure sub-sectors and affordable housing in accordance with RBI guidelines.

## **Sports**

### **Japanese pair of Imamura-Noguchi secure men's doubles title.**

In tennis, the unseeded Japanese duo of Masamichi Imamura and Rio Noguchi clinched the Delhi Open Doubles title with a 6-4, 6-3 win over India's Niki Poonacha and Courtney Lock of Zimbabwe at the DLTA Complex.

In the Men's singles event, unseeded Frenchman Kyrian Jacquet reached the final after defeating top seed Vit Kopriva in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1.

### **Hockey: India kickstarts Women's Pro League campaign with 3-2 win over England.**

In Hockey, India started its Women's Pro League campaign with a 3-2 win over England at Kalinga Hockey Stadium, in Bhubaneswar. Vaishnavi Phalke opened the scoring in the sixth minute while Deepika added another in the 25th minute.

England's Darcy Bourne equalized in the 12th minute, and Fiona Crackles leveled again in the 58th before Navneet's decisive strike. Finally, Indian player Navneet Kaur sealed the win in the final minute.

### **Ranchi to host the 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championships at the Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium.**

Ranchi will host the 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championships at the Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium from May 3 to 5, 2025.

Athletes from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives will compete in the Championship.

This event marks the return of the championships to India after 17 years, with the last edition held in 2008. The first two editions of the South Asian Senior Athletics Championships were held in 1997 and 1998.