

International

3rd International AYUSH Conference 2026 opens in Dubai.

The 3rd International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition 2026 has opened at the Dubai World Trade Centre, highlighting ancient medical systems and their modern applications. With the theme “Evidence-Based AYUSH Interventions in Mind-Body Health,” the three-day event features over 120 exhibitors.

Minister of State for AYUSH Prataprao Jadhav said AYUSH systems are increasingly shaping global health discourse, in line with the WHO’s traditional medicine strategy.

National

Centre clears India’s first underwater road-cum-rail tunnel in Assam.

The Centre has approved India’s first underwater twin tube road-cum-rail tunnel under the Brahmaputra River in Assam. Cleared by the CCEA, the ₹18,662 crore project includes a 15.79-km tunnel as part of a 33.7-km four-lane greenfield corridor connecting Gohpur and Numaligarh. Travel time will drop from six hours to 20 minutes, boosting connectivity, logistics efficiency and economic growth across the Northeast, while generating around 80 lakh person-days of employment.

India records highest-ever power capacity addition in FY26.

India added a record 52,537 MW of electricity generation capacity across all sources in the current financial year till January 31, the power ministry said.

This marks the highest-ever annual addition, surpassing the previous record of 34,054 MW in FY25.

Of the total, 39,657 MW came from renewables, led by solar and wind. India’s total installed capacity now stands at about 520.5 GW, with renewables accounting for over 50%.

Amit Shah launches India’s first CBDC-based Digital Food Currency pilot.

Home Minister Amit Shah has launched India’s first Central Bank Digital Currency-based Digital Food Currency pilot in Gujarat.

Under the initiative, RBI-issued programmable digital currency (e₹) coupons will be credited to beneficiaries, enabling them to redeem foodgrains at ration shops through digital vouchers. Food Minister Pralhad Joshi said the system will resolve biometric and e-POS issues while ensuring secure, real-time transactions.

The pilot will soon be extended to Chandigarh, Puducherry and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Puneet Agrawal appointed India’s next ambassador to Thailand.

The Ministry of External Affairs has announced the appointment of Puneet Agrawal, a 1997-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mr. Agrawal is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry and is expected to take up his new assignment shortly.

Business and Economy

RBI proposes allowing bank lending to REITs with safeguards.

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed permitting banks to lend to SEBI-registered Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), with strict safeguards.

Aggregate bank exposure to a REIT and its SPVs will be capped at 49% of the REIT’s asset value.

Lending will be allowed only to listed REITs with a minimum three-year track record and positive cash flows.

Funds must be used for completed projects, structured as amortising loans, fully secured, and monitored through escrow mechanisms to prevent diversion.

Global Tech Giants launch Trusted Tech Alliance at Munich conference.

Leading technology companies, including Anthropic, Microsoft, Google Cloud, AWS, Jio Platforms and Ericsson, have launched the Trusted Tech Alliance at the Munich security conference.

The alliance brings together 15 firms from four continents to build a trusted cross-border technology stack spanning connectivity, cloud, semiconductors, software and AI.

Members have committed to common principles on transparency, security, data protection and ethical governance, aiming to strengthen global trust, resilience and inclusive digital growth amid rapid technological change.

India ranks third globally in AI Vibrancy: Stanford HAI report.

India has ranked third worldwide in global AI vibrancy, after the US and China, according to a Stanford Institute for Human-Centred AI-based assessment. With a weighted index score of 21.59, India outperformed countries like the UK and Germany, excelling in AI research and talent.

The report highlighted India's strong IT sector, data sovereignty policies and initiatives such as MeitY's AIKosha, which support responsible AI development through open, interoperable domestic datasets.

NLC India, NALCO sign MoU for power projects.

NLC India Ltd has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Aluminium Company (NALCO) to strengthen collaboration in thermal and renewable energy projects.

The agreement provides a framework for cooperation in the proposed 1,200 MW Thermal Captive Power Project and renewable energy development.

The MoU was signed in the presence of senior officials from both public sector enterprises, reinforcing their commitment to expanding sustainable and reliable power capacity.

Sports

Klaebo sets Winter Games record with ninth gold.

Norway's Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo created history at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics by winning his ninth gold medal in cross-country skiing.

The 29-year-old anchored Norway to victory in the men's 4×7.5 km relay, earning his fourth gold of the 2026 Games. With this feat, Klaebo surpassed retired Norwegian greats to become the most successful cross-country skier in Winter Games history.

Brazil's Lucas Braathen makes history at Milano Cortina 2026.

Brazilian skier Lucas Pinheiro Braathen won gold in the Giant Slalom at the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics 2026, securing South America's first-ever Winter Games medal.

The 25-year-old topped the field in challenging conditions, beating Switzerland's Marco Odermatt.

Norway leads the medal tally with 20 medals.

India's Arif Mohammad Khan will compete in alpine slalom, while Stanzin Lundup finished 104th in cross-country skiing.

Cooper Lutkenhaus breaks World Junior Indoor 800m record.

American athletics prodigy Cooper Lutkenhaus set a new world junior indoor 800m record at the Sound Running meet in Winston-Salem, USA.

The teenager clocked 1 minute 44.03 seconds to win the race, breaking the long-standing under-20 record of 1:44.35 set by Russia's Yuriy Borzakovskiy in 2000.