

International

Brazil's Mariangela Hungria named 2025 World Food Prize laureate.

Brazilian microbiologist Mariangela Hungria has been awarded the 2025 World Food Prize for her groundbreaking work in biological nitrogen fixation—a sustainable technique that enhances crop growth while reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers. Her contributions have played a vital role in advancing Brazil's agricultural productivity. She was awarded the \$500,000 prize by the World Food Prize Foundation.

Established in 1987 by Nobel Peace Prize winner Norman Borlaug, the World Food Prize honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to food security worldwide.

Balochs declare independence from Pakistan.

Baloch nationalist leaders have declared independence from Pakistan, citing decades of violence, enforced disappearances, and human rights violations in the region. The Baloch independence movement has deep historical roots, tracing back to 1947, when the princely state of Kalat briefly declared independence following the partition of British India. In 1948, it was forcibly annexed by Pakistan, a move that Baloch nationalists have never accepted. The region has vast natural resources, particularly gas and minerals, which have been exploited by Islamabad, while the local population remains marginalised.

US President Trump secures \$243.5 billion in economic deals during Qatar visit.

US President Donald J. Trump has signed a landmark agreement with Qatar to generate an economic exchange worth at least \$1.2 trillion. During the visit, Trump announced economic deals totalling more than \$243.5 billion between the United States and Qatar, including a historic sale of Boeing aircraft and GE Aerospace engines to Qatar Airways. The centrepiece of these agreements is Qatar Airways' purchase of 160 Boeing jets worth \$200 billion.

Robert Benton, Oscar-winning director dies.

Robert Benton, the three-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker known for directing the 1979 best picture winner Kramer vs. Kramer and co-writing the groundbreaking Bonnie and Clyde, died. He was 92.

His major breakthrough came with the drama about divorce and fatherhood starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep, which won five Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay.

National

Ajay Kumar takes oath as new UPSC Chairman.

Retired IAS officer and former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar took Oath as the new Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairman. The Oath was administered by Lt.Gen Raj Shukla (Retd.), the senior-most Member of the Commission.

Dr. Kumar is a retired Indian Administrative Service officer from the 1985 batch of the Kerala cadre.

Indian Army conducts Teesta Prahar exercise in West Bengal

The Indian Army has conducted the Teesta Prahar exercise at the Teesta field firing range in West Bengal. Various units of the Army, including infantry, mechanised infantry, artillery, armed corps, para special forces, army aviation engineering, and signals, participated in the exercise. The exercise holds significance in the backdrop of Operation Sindoor.

DRDO develops high-pressure polymeric membrane for sea water desalination.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an indigenous nanoporous multilayered polymeric membrane for high-pressure seawater desalination, which will be used in Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships. The technology, developed by DRDO's Kanpur-based laboratory DMSRDE, has completed initial technical trials on an Offshore Patrolling Vessel with satisfactory results.

Centre revokes security clearance of Turkish firm Celebi Aviation

The Central government has revoked the security clearance of Turkish ground handling firm Celebi Airport Services India Private Limited with immediate effect. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security said that the decision was taken in the interest of national security. The security clearance for this company had been approved by the BCAS Director General in November 2022.

Celebi Aviation provides passenger handling, flight operations, cargo and postal services, as well as management of aerobridges and warehouse services at airports across nine cities.

Business and Economy

TCS brand valued at \$57.3 billion by Kantar, ranked 45th globally.

According to Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands 2025 Report, Tata Consultancy Services has been accorded a brand value of \$57.3 billion with an accelerated 28% year-on-year growth. TCS is the only Indian company to be included in the top 50 most valued brands in the world. TCS now ranks 45th brand globally, in a list of 100 that includes the world's most prominent brands across industry sectors.

Three other Indian companies have made it to the list. HDFC Bank is ranked at 56 with a brand value of \$44.9 billion. Airtel is the third most valued brand from India with a brand value of \$37 billion and ranking at 66th place, followed by Infosys at 73rd place with a brand value of 33 billion.

Apple reigns at the top of the list with a \$1.29 trillion brand value, followed by Google and Microsoft with brand values of \$944 billion and \$884 billion,

India's trade deficit widens to \$8.65 billion in April.

India's total trade deficit, counting both merchandise and services, widened to \$8.65 billion in April, compared to \$5.77 billion in April last year, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

India's total exports, including merchandise and services, stood at \$824.9 billion in 2024-25, the highest-ever, up 6% from 2023-24.

IMF disburses \$1.023 billion tranche to Pakistan.

The International Monetary Fund has disbursed a second tranche of \$1.023 billion under the Extended Fund Facility programme for Pakistan. The disbursement of the second tranche comes on a day when the IMF is holding virtual discussions on Pakistan's upcoming Budget as the visit of its mission to Islamabad was delayed due to security concerns in the region.

Centre approves 187 startups for income tax exemption benefits.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has approved 187 startups for income tax exemption under the revamped Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. Startups incorporated before 1st April 2020 are now eligible to apply, giving more time and opportunity to new ventures to benefit from this financial relief.

The tax benefit allows eligible startups a hundred percent income tax deduction on profits for any three consecutive years within a ten-year window from the date of incorporation.

Cargo handled by India's major ports surges to record 855 million tonnes in FY25.

India's major ports have registered remarkable growth in cargo handling in the last financial year. In a statement, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said that the country's ports handled 819 million tonnes of cargo in the financial year 2023-24, which increased to 855 million tonnes in FY 2024-25, marking an annual growth of 4.3 per cent.

Sports

Khelo India Youth Games 2025 ends; Maharashtra tops with 158 medals.

The Khelo India Youth Games 2025 concluded with a colourful and entertaining closing ceremony at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, Bihar. Maharashtra emerged as the overall champion at the games, garnering 158 medals, including 58 gold and 47 silver. Haryana, with 117 medals, secured the second position.

Nihal Sarin finishes runner-up at Asian Chess Championship.

Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin finished as runner-up at the Asian Championship held in Al Ain, UAE. He defeated Iran's Bardiya Daneshvar in the final round clash between the

joint overnight leaders. However, Sarin had to settle for silver due to an inferior tie-break score, with both players finishing with seven points from nine rounds. Nihal secured a spot in the upcoming FIDE Chess World Cup, set to be held in India later this year.