

International

ICOM Dubai 2025 concludes with new leadership and Rotterdam named host for 2028.

The 27th General Conference of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) concluded in Dubai, marking the event's first-ever hosting in West Asia.

With over 4,500 participants, the conference strengthened Dubai's global cultural standing. Antonio Rodriguez was elected ICOM President, with Nasir Al Darmaki as the Vice President. Rotterdam was selected to host ICOM 2028.

The conference also launched the ICOM Sustainability Award, won by Kaye Hall and Jamie Brown.

Trump cuts food import tariffs to tackle rising prices.

US President Donald Trump has reduced tariffs on food imports in response to rising affordability concerns. India's mangoes, pomegranates, and tea are set to benefit as tropical fruits, juices, tea, and spices are exempt from reciprocal tariffs.

Previously, Trump imposed a 25% tariff on Indian imports and added punitive tariffs for Russian oil purchases.

UK Government plans major overhaul of asylum system, cuts refugee protections.

The UK government has announced sweeping changes to its asylum policies, aiming to curb irregular immigration and address the rising influence of the Reform UK party.

Under the new measures, modelled after Denmark's strict system, automatic benefits for asylum seekers will end, and the length of refugee status will be reduced from five years to 30 months. Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood called it an end to the "golden ticket" for asylum seekers.

Refugees will face regular reviews and could be required to return home if deemed safe.

The waiting period for permanent residency will also increase from five to 20 years.

Congo and M23 rebels sign Qatar-backed peace framework.

The Democratic Republic of Congo and the M23 rebel group signed a framework agreement in Doha, Qatar, aimed at paving the way for a lasting peace deal in eastern Congo.

Since capturing Goma in January, M23 has expanded control across North and South Kivu provinces, amid accusations of support from Rwanda, which it denies. The conflict has resulted in thousands of deaths and the displacement of hundreds of thousands, raising fears of a broader regional war.

The agreement marks a significant step toward curbing the escalating violence.

Important Days

National Press Day: 16th November.

National Press Day is celebrated every year on 16th November to honour the establishment of the Press Council of India in 1966, the watchdog of press freedom and ethics.

This year's theme, 'Safeguarding Press Credibility Amidst Rising Misinformation,' underscores the crucial role of responsible journalism in combating fake news and maintaining public trust.

It highlights the need for a free, unbiased, and ethical media to uphold democratic values in an era of digital information overload.

Awards

Science City Kolkata's "On The Edge?" climate gallery wins prestigious CIMUSET award.

Science City, Kolkata, a unit of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), has won the esteemed CIMUSET Award for its climate change gallery "On The Edge?" at the 27th ICOM General Conference in Dubai. Spanning 10,000 square feet, this permanent gallery addresses urgent climate issues through interactive exhibits, augmented and virtual reality, and community-driven storytelling. Inaugurated in January 2025, it embodies the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and aligns with global sustainability goals.

National

IAF begins participation in 8th edition of Garuda 25 air exercise in France.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has commenced its participation in the 8th edition of the bilateral air exercise "Garuda 25" with the French Air and Space Force (FASF) in France.

The drill aims to refine operational tactics in a realistic combat environment and foster professional interaction.

The IAF's Su-30MKI aircraft will engage alongside French multirole fighters in advanced simulated missions, focusing on air-to-air combat, air defence, and joint strike operations.

Arunachal Pradesh appoints panel to review anti-conversion law draft.

The Arunachal Pradesh government has appointed retired Gauhati High Court judge Brojendra Prasad Katakey as the Chairperson of a high-powered committee (HPC) to review the draft rules of the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act (APFRA), 1978. The panel replaces Home Minister Mama Natung as head and includes ministers, bureaucrats, and religious and cultural representatives.

Tasked with aligning the draft rules with constitutional provisions and court directives from September 2024, the committee must report back promptly. Critics, including the Arunachal Christian Forum, argue the law infringes on religious freedom under Article 25.

Sikkim to open Doklam and Cho La for Tourists by December 15.

The Sikkim government announced that the Doklam and Cho La strategically significant border regions will be opened to tourists from December 15, 2025.

Initially scheduled for September, the opening was delayed due to logistical challenges.

As part of the Defence Ministry's Battlefield Tourism initiative, these sites will now host visitors for the first time. Doklam, known for the 2017 standoff with China, and Cho La, famed for the 1967 Indo-China clash, are being prepared with controlled access and strict visitor guidelines to preserve security and heritage.

Telangana to host 'Telangana-North East Connect' techno-cultural Festival in two phases.

Telangana will host the 'Telangana-North East Connect' festival later this month to strengthen cultural, social, and developmental ties with the North-Eastern states.

The event will be held in two phases in Hyderabad.

The first phase runs from November 20–22 at HITECH Exhibition Centre, featuring cultural performances and stalls showcasing handmade products by women from the North East.

The second phase, from November 25–27 at Raj Bhavan, will include panel discussions on the health sector and visits to key institutions like Genome Valley and T-Hub, with around 500 participants expected.

Business and Economy

India reaches 13.6 crore investors, 21 crore demat accounts: SEBI.

SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey announced that as of October 2025, India has 13.6 crore investors and over 21 crore demat accounts, reflecting a surge in retail investor participation. Speaking at the India International Trade Fair 2025, he noted that nearly one lakh new demat accounts are opened daily.

Mutual fund investments have also seen a substantial rise, exceeding ₹80 trillion, a seven-fold increase over the past decade, underscoring strong confidence in India's capital markets.

Sports

Greater Noida hosts World Boxing Cup Finals 2025.

Greater Noida is hosting the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex. This marks the grand finale of the World Boxing Cup Series, following earlier stages in Brazil, Poland, and Kazakhstan.

The event will feature 130 boxers from 18 countries, with the top 8 fighters in 20 categories competing.

India has entries in all categories, including champions like Minakshi, Nikhat Zareen, Jaismine, and Saweety Boora, who is returning after a break. Lovlina Borgohain has withdrawn due to injury.

Arjun Erigaisi becomes First Indian to reach Chess World Cup Quarterfinals.

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi made history by becoming the first Indian player to enter the quarterfinals of the FIDE Chess World Cup 2025.

He achieved this landmark victory by defeating two-time World Cup champion Levon Aronian with black pieces in Arpora, Goa.

Pentala Harikrishna, the only other Indian in Round 5, will face tiebreaks tomorrow after drawing both classical games against Jose Martinez.

Arjun and Harikrishna also drew their first games in Round 5.

Meanwhile, six out of eight Round of 16 matches remain undecided and will proceed to tiebreaks.

Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara clinch historic recurve golds for India.

Ankita Bhakat made history by becoming India's first women's recurve individual Asian Champion with a confident 7-3 win over Olympic silver medalist Nam Su-hyeon at the Asian Archery Championships in Dhaka. Shortly after, Dhiraj Bommadevara secured another milestone by becoming the first Indian male recurve Asian Individual champion, defeating compatriot Rahul 6-2 in the final.

This marks India's best-ever performance at the Championships. Both archers had narrowly missed a medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics, finishing fourth in the mixed team event.