

International

India elected unopposed to UN Human Rights Council for 2026–28 term.

India has been elected unopposed to the Human Rights Council for the seventh time for a three-year term (2026-28) starting next year. The Human Rights Council is the main UN body with 47 members. It promotes and protects human rights around the world, reviews the situation in member countries, and provides a forum to discuss issues. The Council was formed by the General Assembly in 2006, when India was elected to its first term.

Raila Odinga, former Prime Minister of Kenya, dies in Kerala.

Raila Odinga, former Prime Minister of Kenya, died at a private hospital in Koothattukulam in Ernakulam district of Kerala. He was 80. Odinga, a towering figure in Kenyan politics, had come to Kerala for Ayurvedic treatment after receiving initial care for a minor stroke in Mumbai.

Floods in South Sudan affect 8.9 Lakh people.

Nearly 8 lakh 90 thousand people have been affected by floods in South Sudan. Widespread flooding in the country has killed 19 people so far. The floods have caused extensive damage to homes, crops, schools, health facilities, roads and other critical infrastructure, further complicating humanitarian access. South Sudan is highly prone to flooding due to its location in the Nile River Basin, low-lying topography, heavy rainfall and high-water levels in Lake Victoria.

SpaceX's 11th Starship Rocket successfully lands in the Indian Ocean.

Elon Musk's space company SpaceX launched its 11th Starship rocket from Texas, which successfully landed in the Indian Ocean. This was the last test flight of the current version. SpaceX will start testing a newer, upgraded Starship version designed for missions to carry people to the Moon and Mars.

NASA and SpaceX aim to land humans on the Moon in 2027 as part of a 3 billion dollar US

deal under NASA's Artemis programme, the first human Moon landing attempt since 1972. This puts SpaceX in the lead of a space race with China, which wants to send astronauts to the Moon by 2030.

Madagascar Military announces seizure of state power.

Madagascar's military has announced the seizure of state power. A Malagasy military officer, Colonel Michael Randrianirina announced that state power in Madagascar has been taken over by a military council. Earlier in the day, the Presidency of Madagascar announced the dissolution of the National Assembly, the lower house of the bicameral Malagasy parliament.

Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina has taken refuge in a safe location to ensure his security after an assassination attempt against him.

India has fallen to the 85th rank in the 2025 Henley Passport Index.

India has fallen to the 85th rank in the 2025 Henley Passport Index, offering visa-free access to 57 countries. Last year, India's passport was ranked 80th on the list with visa-free travel to 62 destinations. Singapore continues to be the most powerful passport with visa-free access to 193 countries. South Korea is second on the list this year, with 190 countries, and Japan is third, allowing travel to 189 countries.

Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland share the fourth rank with visa-free access to 188 countries, while Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland and the Netherlands share the fifth rank, allowing travel without a visa to 187 countries.

National

India, Kyrgyz Republic agree to strengthen cooperation on counterterrorism and regional security.

India and Kyrgyz Republic have agreed to enhance existing collaboration on countering terrorism, radicalisation, extremism and drug trafficking. National Security Advisor Ajit

Doval met Secretary of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic Lieutenant General Baktybek Bekbolotov in Bishkek. They reviewed bilateral defence cooperation and discussed regional security issues. Both sides also emphasized the need to coordinate positions on issues of common concern at regional and multilateral fora.

Bharath Thammineni becomes first Indian to scale nine 8,000-metre peaks.

Bharath Thammineni, a 36-year-old mountaineer from Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, has become the first Indian to summit all nine of the world's 14 highest peaks, after successfully climbing Mt Cho Oyu (8,188m), the sixth-highest mountain.

Prior to this latest achievement, Thammineni had summited Mt Everest in May 2017, Mt Manaslu in September 2018, Mt Lhotse in May 2019, Mt Annapurna in March 2022, Mt Kanchenjunga in April 2022, Mt Makalu in May 2023, Mt Shishapangma in October 2024 and Mt Dhaulagiri in April 2025 - all 8,000-plus metre peaks

61 senior naxal cadres surrender in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra.

In Maharashtra, 61 Senior Naxal Cadres have surrendered before Gadchiroli police and in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The Polit Bureau Member of the Central Naxal Committee, Mallujola Venugopal Rao alias Bhupati, has surrendered along with other 60 senior Naxal Cadres at a programme held in Gadchiroli. All these 61 Naxals were carrying a collective bounty of 6 crore rupees.

Railways Minister inaugurates 16th International Railway Equipment Exhibition in New Delhi.

Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the 16th International Railway Equipment Exhibition-2025, Asia's largest and the world's second-largest railway exhibition, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Over 450 exhibitors across more than 15 countries are showcasing state-of-the-art railway and metro products, innovations, and sustainable solutions.

During the three-day exhibition, the Railway Ministry is showcasing Amrit Bharat and Tejas Coach, Vande Bharat train, Kolkata metro and Namo Bharat train. The exhibition will provide an opportunity for Indian manufacturers to showcase their products at a global level.

Goa Agriculture Minister and Ex-CM Ravi Naik dies.

Goa's minister for agriculture and former chief minister Ravi Naik passed away following a sudden cardiac arrest. He served as chief minister on two occasions — in 1991 and again in 1994 — for a combined total of 850 days in office. Naik was appointed agriculture minister in the Pramod Sawant-led government.

Pankaj Dheer, who played Karna In BR Chopra's Mahabharat, passes away.

Veteran actor Pankaj Dheer, best remembered for his unforgettable portrayal of Karna in BR Chopra's Mahabharat, has passed away. He rose to fame in the late 1980s for his unforgettable portrayal of Karna in BR Chopra's iconic TV series Mahabharat — a performance that made him a household name across India.

He went on to take powerful roles in landmark TV shows like Chandrakanta, where he played King Shivdutt, the fantasy drama The Great Maratha, and the patriot saga Yug (as Ali Khan) on DD National.

He also appeared in movies like Baadshah and Tumko Na Bhool Payenge, and in TV shows like Sasural Simar Ka and Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat, among others.

Veteran singer Raavu Balasaraswathi Devi passes away at 97.

Veteran actress and singer Raavu Balasaraswathi Devi, revered as the first playback singer in Telugu cinema, passed away in Hyderabad. She was 97. She not only pioneered playback singing in Telugu cinema but was also the first 'light music' singer on All India Radio.

She appeared in several classics, including Bhaktha Kuchela (1936), Balayogini (1937), and Thiruneelakantar (1939). She also portrayed Tukaram's daughter in the 1938 film Tukaram.

Business and Economy

Infosys bags £1.2 bn contract from the NHS of U.K.

Infosys has been awarded a £1.2 billion (₹14,000 crore), 15-year contract by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to deliver the Future NHS Workforce Solution. As per the contract, Infosys would develop a cutting-edge, data-driven workforce management solution that would replace the existing Electronic Staff Record (ESR) system and facilitate payroll functions for 1.9 million NHS employees in England and Wales who are paid £55 billion annually.

Bank of Maharashtra PAT up 23% to ₹1,633 crore.

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)'s profit after tax increased 23.09% to ₹1,633 crore on higher net interest income in the second quarter of fiscal 2026 on a year-on-year basis (YoY).

The public sector bank posted a net profit of ₹1,327 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The bank's NII increased 15.7% to ₹3,248 crore in the reporting quarter as against ₹2,807 crore in the year-ago period.

Axis Bank Q2 net profit slips 26% to ₹5,090 crore.

Axis Bank Ltd., for the second quarter which ended September 30, 2025, reported 26% drop in standalone net profit to ₹5,090 crore as compared to the year-ago period due to Reserve Bank of India's mandated one-time provisioning.

Following an RBI advisory, post its FY25 annual inspection, the bank said in Q2FY26 it made an additional one-time standard asset provision of ₹1,231 crore for two discontinued crop loan variants.

OpenAI announces Broadcom deal.

OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, is teaming up with chip giant Broadcom to design and build its own specialised computer processors for artificial intelligence.

The partnership is the latest in a series of recent announcements by OpenAI as it seeks to strengthen its position as the preeminent company of the generative AI revolution that began with the release of ChatGPT in November 2022.

Hyundai Motor names Tarun Garg as the first Indian MD and CEO.

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) has announced the appointment of Tarun Garg as the next Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company, subject to approval of shareholders, effective January 01, 2026. Mr Garg becomes the first Indian national to take on this leadership role within HMIL, since the company's establishment 29 years ago. Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL), on the occasion of its first-ever Investor Day, has also announced to invest ₹45,000 crore by 2030 with a target to achieve 15% domestic market share.

T+0 cheque clearing now stable: NPCI.

Most of the initial issues that cropped up during the transition to the Reserve Bank of India's new real-time continuous cheque clearing system (T+0) have been resolved, and it's been stable since Monday, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said. The new system, rolled out on October 4, was facing glitches, with some customers complaining about delays arising due to bank staff not being trained to handle the new process and issues arising from tech integration.

Most banks encountered challenges such as poor cheque image quality, inconsistent scanning procedures, and inadequate staff training. This led to scanned cheques being rejected or processed according to older schedules, negating the benefits of the continuous clearing initiative.

Since the launch, a total of 14.9 million instruments amounting to ₹8.5 lakh crore have been processed and cleared through the central system.

Sports

Ahmedabad to host 2030 Commonwealth Games.

India is set to hold the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in 2030, with Ahmedabad as the venue for the centenary edition of the event. Gujarat's largest city was recommended as the "proposed host" by the executive board of Commonwealth Sport following its meeting.

India last hosted the CWG in 2010 in Delhi.

Ahmedabad and Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, were the only two candidates to host the event, which has struggled to find takers.

2025 Para Powerlifting World Championships: India's Joby Mathew wins bronze.

India's para powerlifter Joby Mathew won a bronze medal at the Para Powerlifting World Championships 2025 in Cairo, Egypt. Competing in the 65kg Legend (Masters) category, Mathew recorded a total lift of 300kg, successfully lifting 148kg and 152kg. With this, he has surpassed his personal best of 150kg set just two months ago at the Beijing World Cup. This marks Joby Mathew's second World Championship medal, following a bronze medal at Dubai 2023. Thailand's Phongsakon Chumchai lifted 162kg to win gold.