

International

UK's foreign intelligence agency MI6 to be led by a woman.

The UK's foreign intelligence agency, MI6, will be led by a woman for the first time in its 116-year history. Blaise Metreweli, who joined the Secret Intelligence Service in 1999, will become the 18th chief of the organisation, taking over from Richard Moore later this year. Metreweli, currently oversees technology and innovation at the agency.

FATF says Pahalgam terror attack not possible without financial backing.

The Financial Action Task Force, FATF has condemned the Pahalgam terror attack, saying the attack could not have occurred without financial backing. The global watchdog said in a statement that the Pahalgam attack and other recent attacks could not have happened without money and means to move funds between terrorist supporters. The FATF reaffirmed its support to over 200 jurisdictions within its Global Network to build and enhance their counter-financing of terrorism measures. It will soon release a comprehensive analysis of terrorist financing, compiling cases provided by the Global Network.

Iran plans to leave NPT amid ongoing conflict.

Iran is planning to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty amid intensifying conflict with Israel. President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran's Parliament is drafting legislation to leave the nuclear treaty. Iran's potential exit from the treaty will mark a significant escalation, further deepening global fears of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, especially after three days of missile exchanges with Israel.

The NPT is a landmark international treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and facilitate nuclear disarmament.

Bill Atkinson, Macintosh Pioneer and Inventor of Hypercard, dies.

Bill Atkinson, a pioneering computer engineer and programmer at Apple, instrumental in the creation of the Macintosh computer in January

1984, died. Atkinson's most significant technical achievements at Apple centred on the graphical user interface (GUI) that would first define the Lisa (1983) and then Macintosh computers.

He was the creator of QuickDraw, a foundational graphics library that allowed the Macintosh and Lisa to display shapes, images and text efficiently on the screen. HyperCard anticipated the structure of the World Wide Web, and its influence can be seen in every web browser today.

World Day to combat desertification observed on June 17

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is being observed on June 17 globally. The day is a unique moment to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality (LDN) is achievable. The commemoration of the day is led by the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The theme for this year is – "Restore the land. Unlock the opportunities"

AviList: First-ever unified global checklist of bird species is now live.

AviList, the first-ever unified global checklist of bird species, became live on June 12, 2025, after four years of work by the Working Group on Avian Checklists. The new checklist will replace the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) and Clements lists and will be updated annually. The list contains 11,131 species, 19,879 subspecies, 2,376 genera, 252 families and 46 orders.

The Working Group on Avian Checklists included representatives from BirdLife International, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the American Ornithologists Society, the International Ornithologists' Union, and Avibase.

National

Centre to open two thousand driving training schools.

The Central government has decided to open two thousand driving training schools in various parts of the country. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that these training schools will be opened

in backwards and tribal areas of the country, which will generate employment opportunities for youth. He said there is a shortage of around 22 lakh drivers in the country, and these training schools will help in fulfilling the shortage of skilled drivers.

Govt unveils major policy reforms to ease innovation and research.

Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has announced policy reforms to enhance the Ease of Innovation and Ease of Doing Research, providing long-awaited relief to innovators, researchers, scholars, scientists and institutions across the country.

One of the most consequential decisions announced is the delegation of procurement powers to institutional heads, as they can now approve Global Tender Enquiries up to 200 crore rupees-previously a power reserved for central authorities. The government has also revised key financial thresholds under the General Financial Rules (GFR). The ceiling for direct purchases has been doubled from 1 lakh to 2 lakh rupees, while the range for purchases through departmental committees has been raised from 1 to 10 lakh rupees to 2 to 25 lakh rupees.

Business and Economy

India's trade deficit narrowed to \$6.6 bn in May.

According to the monthly trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's overall trade deficit narrowed to \$6.6 billion in May 2025, down nearly 30% over its level in May last year, as total imports fell largely due to a fall in oil prices while total exports grew on the back of a strong performance by the services sector.

India's total exports grew to \$71.1 billion in May 2025, up from \$69.2 billion in May 2024. This 2.8% growth in total exports was due to a strong showing by the services sector, which saw exports growing 9.4% to \$32.4 billion.

Wholesale inflation falls to 14-month low in May.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to a 14-month low of 0.39 percent in May, down from 0.85 percent in

April. Food inflation dropped to 1.72 percent from 2.55 percent, while primary articles saw a contraction of 2.02 percent. The fuel and power segment registered deflation at 2.27 percent, and inflation in manufactured products slowed to 2.04 percent.

RBI introduces STRIPS in state-government bonds.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities (STRIPS) in all fixed coupon State Government Securities (SGS) having a residual maturity of up to 14 years and a minimum outstanding of ₹1,000 crore as on the day of stripping.

STRIPS are basically "zero-coupon" securities where the investor receives a payment at maturity only. STRIPS allows the principal and interest components of fixed-coupon securities to be traded separately as individual zero-coupon instruments. This promotes flexibility in trading and widens the investor base.

India to export 150 locomotives, worth over ₹3,000 crore, to Africa.

India will supply 150 locomotives worth more than ₹3,000 crore to the African country of Guinea. The Make-in-India locomotives are meant for use at the Simandou iron ore project site in the country. The Railway Locomotive factory in Marhowrah, Bihar, will supply 150 Evolution Series ES43ACmi locomotives. Thirty-seven locomotives will be exported in the current financial year, while 82 locomotives will be exported in the next financial year. Another 31 locomotives will be exported in the third year.

Bangladesh: Defaulted loan rises to Taka 4.2 trillion.

Bangladesh's banking sector faces mounting challenges as defaulted loans soared to 24.13 percent by March 2025, up from 20.20 percent in December 2024, according to Bangladesh Bank data. The total bad loans across 61 scheduled banks jumped to 4,20,334.94 crore Bangladeshi Taka, signalling deepening financial distress. Net classified loans also rose to 15 percent, exposing inadequate reserves. State-owned banks remain the worst hit, with nearly 46 percent of their loans in default.

Meta appoints Arun Srinivas as India head.

Meta appointed Arun Srinivas as the Managing Director and Head for Meta in India with effect from July 1, 2025. He is currently Meta's Director and Head of Ads Business in India. As part of his new job, Mr Srinivas would focus on bringing the organisation's business, innovation and revenue priorities together to serve partners and clients, while continuing to support the long-term growth of Meta's business and commitment to India.

Sports

Nishant Dev wins 2nd professional fight in Super Welterweight bout.

In Boxing, Indian boxer Nishant Dev has won his second professional fight, defeating Josue Silva via unanimous decision 60-54 in the Super Welterweight bout at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Ferrari wins third consecutive 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Ferrari won the 24 Hours of Le Mans for the third year in a row but with Poland's Robert Kubica taking the chequered flag for the privately-run AF Corse team ahead of the red factory cars. For the third year running, Ferrari has triumphed at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, securing the 93rd edition of the French endurance race.

Tennis: Taylor Fritz claims Stuttgart Open final.

Taylor Fritz claimed his first title of the year with a 6-3, 7-6(0) win over top seed Alexander Zverev in the Stuttgart Open final extending his winning streak against the German to five matches. Fritz won the opening set 6-3 in 30 minutes without facing a break point. He broke for a 5-3 lead after Zverev double-faulted twice and missed a volley at the net.