

## International

### Lassa fever outbreak kills 138 in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, the death toll from the Lassa fever outbreak in Africa's most populous country has reached 138 since the beginning of this year. 717 confirmed cases have been recorded so far. With this, the case fatality rate has risen to 19.2 per cent. At least 18 out of the 36 states in the country have been affected by the viral haemorrhagic disease so far this year.

Lassa fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic illness caused by the Lassa virus, a member of the arenavirus family of viruses. Humans usually become infected with the Lassa virus through exposure to food or household items contaminated with the urine or faeces of infected Mastomys rats.

### Libya grants ICC jurisdiction over crimes from 2011 to 2027.

Libya has formally submitted a declaration to the International Criminal Court (ICC) under Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute, granting the court jurisdiction over crimes committed on its territory from 2011 to 2027. The situation in Libya was first referred to the court by the UN Security Council in 2011 via Resolution 1970. The ICC's jurisdiction will last until the end of 2027.

### Melioidosis deaths in Australia reach 31.

In Australia, the death toll from an outbreak of the tropical disease melioidosis, linked to heavy rainfall and flooding in the northern part of the country, has reached 31 this year. According to the latest data, in the past week, four cases of melioidosis have been reported. It takes the total number of reported cases in Queensland in 2025 to 221, an increase of 163 compared to the same point in 2024.

Melioidosis is a rare tropical disease caused by bacteria commonly found in soil and water in Southeast Asia and northern Australia. After heavy rainfall, it becomes airborne.

### Cross River Gorilla, Tapanuli Orangutan among 25 most endangered primates

The Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*), found in Cameroon and Nigeria, and the Tapanuli Orangutan (*Pongo tapanuliensis*),

found on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, are among the 25 most endangered primates in the world, according to a new report titled, *Primates in Peril: The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates 2023–2025*.

The report lists 25 most endangered primates across Asia, Africa, Madagascar and South America for the years 2023-2025. The list includes most endangered primates has six species from Africa, four from Madagascar, nine from Asia, and six from the Neotropics (South America).

Two primates found in Northeast India and Bangladesh —Phayre's Langur and the Western Hoolock Gibbon — were among species considered for the final list, although they did not make it.

### India, EU launch ₹391 Crore Projects to Tackle Marine Plastic and Develop Waste-to-Hydrogen Technology

India and the European Union (EU) have launched two major collaborative research projects under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), aiming to deliver innovative solutions to marine pollution and green hydrogen production from waste. Backed by a combined investment of ₹391 crore (€41 million), these initiatives mark a major stride in strengthening bilateral ties in science, technology, and sustainability.

### GPS on the moon: Spanish firm GMV unveils revolutionary Lunar Navigation System

Spain-based technology firm GMV has introduced an innovative lunar navigation system designed to transform how astronauts and rovers find their way on the moon. Dubbed LUPIN, the project aims to bring intuitive, real-time positioning to the lunar surface—making navigating the moon as seamless as using Google Maps or Waze on Earth.

The system is part of the European Space Agency's (ESA) broader program to explore cutting-edge positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) technologies.

## National

### Arunabha Ghosh appointed South Asia Envoy to COP-30 in Brazil

Arunabha Ghosh, who heads Delhi-based climate and energy think tank CEEW (Council on Energy, Environment and Water), has been appointed as the South Asia envoy for this year's UN climate conference (COP-30), which will take place in Brazil in November.

As one of eight international envoys for strategic regions, Mr. Ghosh will play a key role in facilitating dialogue and ensuring that South Asian voices are strongly represented and supported at the global climate conference.

### President Murmu confers 58th Jnanpith Award on Sanskrit Scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 58th Jnanpith Award on Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya at a function in New Delhi. Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and the renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Gulzar have been selected for this prestigious award for 2023. These eminent personalities have been honoured with this award for their outstanding contribution in the field of literature.

### Culture Ministry launches 'Ek Desh Ek Dhadkan' to honour nation's bravehearts.

The Ministry of Culture has launched a powerful and binding initiative, Ek Desh Ek Dhadkan (One Nation, One Heartbeat), to honour the bravehearts of the nation. The slogan Ek Desh Ek Dhadkan is being widely adopted across digital platforms, amplifying the spirit of unity, patriotic fervour and reverence for the Tiranga. The Culture Ministry said, prominent cultural institutions and heritage sites have been illuminated in the colours of the Indian flag.

### India tests homegrown 'Bhargavastra' counter-swarm drone system.

India has successfully test fired a new low-cost counter-drone system called Bhargavastra, marking a significant advancement in tackling the growing threat of drone swarms. The system's micro rockets were successfully tested

at the Seaward Firing Range in Odisha's Gopalpur, meeting all specified performance targets.

Bhargavastra boasts of advanced capabilities for detecting and eliminating small and incoming drones at distances of up to 2.5 km.

## Business and Economy

### India remains fastest-growing economy: UN.

As per the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) mid-year report, the Indian economy is expected to grow by 6.3 per cent this fiscal year. The growth is driven by strong private consumption and public investment. The report projects India's growth to rise slightly to 6.4 per cent next year.

In contrast, global growth is forecast at just 2.4 per cent in 2025, with trade tensions and policy uncertainty weakening the outlook.

### South Indian Bank records net profit of ₹1,303 crore.

The South Indian Bank has declared a net profit of ₹1,302.88 crore for the 2024-2025 financial year, registering a growth of 21.75% compared to ₹1,070.08 crore in FY 2023-2024.

The bank's operating profit of the year increased by 21.55% from ₹1,867.67 crore in FY 24 to ₹2,270.08 crore in FY 25.

### India-Honduras trade crosses \$300 million mark.

External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar has said that the economic engagements between India and Honduras in the last three decades have grown steadily, with bilateral trade reaching more than 300 million dollars. India and Honduras have a diversified basket that includes pharmaceuticals, textiles, automobiles, and machinery, and India imports coffee, wood, and leather from Honduras.

### LIC to get two new managing directors.

The Centre has approved the appointment of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) executive directors Ratnakar Patnaik and Dinesh Pant as Managing Directors of the State-owned insurer with effect from their date of assumption of charge of on or after June 1.

## **Unemployment rate at 5.1 %: PLFS data show.**

According to the first monthly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), released by the Union Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation under a revamped method, the unemployment Rate (UR) in current weekly status (CWS) in the country among persons of age 15 years and above was 5.1% in April, 2025. UR among males in the country was higher at 5.2% compared to the female UR of 5.0%. The rural unemployment rate for all persons in all ages was 4.5% and the urban unemployment 6.5%.

The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in CWS among persons of age 15 years and above was 55.6% during the period. LFPR in rural areas was 58.0% and in urban areas it was 50.7% for in April for persons of the same age group.

## **SEBI, Corporate Affairs Ministry initiate 'Niveshak Shivir' to assist and educate investors**

SEBI and the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, convene a strategic preparatory meeting in Mumbai for Niveshak Shivir initiative.

Niveshak Shivir - a nationwide investor assistance initiative aimed at enabling investors to reclaim unclaimed dividends and shares with greater ease, improving financial literacy and reducing reliance on intermediaries.

## **NCLT gave nod for resolution plans to the tune of over ₹67,000 crore in FY2024-25 under bankruptcy law**

As many as 284 resolution plans were approved under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in 2024-25, which would result in settlements to the tune of ₹67,176 crore in FY 2024-2025, which is about 42% highest than the ₹47,206 crore resolved through 275 resolution plans in 2023-2024.

India enacted the IBC, its first comprehensive bankruptcy law in 2016, to improve the overall corporate insolvency resolution process.

## **Sports**

### **R Praggnanandhaa wins Superbet Chess Classic in Romania**

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has won the Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest, Romania. He won after a tense tiebreak against Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. All three players were tied at 5.5 points in nine rounds, which led to a three-way playoff.

### **Neeraj Chopra breaks 90m mark at Doha Diamond League Men's Javelin throw event**

Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra has finished second at the 2025 Doha Diamond League Men's Javelin Throw event. Despite a record-breaking 90.23 meter throw, Neeraj had to settle behind Germany's Julian Weber, who startled everyone with a final throw of 91.06 meters.

### **Football: India storms into SAFF U-19 Championship Final.**

India stormed into the final of SAFF Under-19 Championship 2025 with a commanding 3-nil victory against Maldives at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh. Goals from Danny Meitei Laishram, Omang Dodum, and Prashan Jajo ensured a smooth passage to the title clash.

### **Srihari becomes India's 86th Chess Grandmaster**

Tamil Nadu's L. R. Srihari became India's latest and 86th Grandmaster. The Chennai-based player, who had crossed the 2500 Elo rating (live) last May at the Dubai Open, got his first GM norm at the Six days Budapest GM Round-Robin in August 2023 and the second at the 2023 Qatar Masters.