

## International

### U.S. designates The Resistance Front responsible for Pahalgam attack as terrorist organisation.

The US government has designated The Resistance Front, a proxy of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) that was behind the Pahalgam attack in India, as a foreign terrorist organisation. TRF initially took responsibility for the April attack in Kashmir before denying it.

### India co-chairs UN group advocating accountability for crimes against peacekeepers.

India has strongly reiterated its commitment to ensuring justice for crimes committed against UN peacekeepers, calling accountability a strategic necessity for the success of global peacekeeping missions. Speaking at a high-level UN meeting of the Group of Friends (GoF) for promoting accountability, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador P Harish, said peacekeepers face serious threats while serving in dangerous areas, yet most crimes against them go unpunished. The meeting, co-chaired by India, brought together representatives from 40 countries, UN officials, and experts.

The GoF was launched in December 2022 during India's UN Security Council presidency, following Resolution 2589, which called for action against crimes targeting UN peacekeepers.

### 8 babies born in UK using DNA from three people to avoid genetic disease.

In a remarkable breakthrough, scientists in the UK used a three-person in vitro fertilization (IVF) technique to bring to life eight children and spared them from genetic mitochondrial disease. The infants-four girls and four boys, including one set of identical twins-were born using DNA from three people. Researchers from Newcastle University in the UK said, the babies were born to seven women at high risk of transmitting serious disease caused by mutations in mitochondrial DNA.

## 17 July - Day of International Criminal Justice.

The Day of International Criminal Justice is observed on 17 July every year. It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

## National

### DRDO hands over six strategic indigenously designed products to Indian Navy.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation gave six indigenous products to the Indian Navy. The products meet Naval Staff Qualitative Requirements. The six indigenously designed products include Gamma Radiation Aerial Surveillance System (GRASS), Environmental Surveillance Vehicle (ESV), Vehicle Radiological Contamination Monitoring System (VRCMS), Underwater Gamma Radiation Monitoring System (UGRMS), Dirt Extractor and Cross Contamination Monitor (DECCOM) and Organ Radioactivity Detection System (ORDS).

### Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Lucknow among India's cleanest cities: "Swachh Survekshan" cleanliness survey.

Ahmedabad was named the cleanest big city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 awards, followed by Bhopal and Lucknow. This year, the awards included a separate category of recognition for cities that had been in the top three of their categories in the previous three years. This new category, of Super Swachh League Cities, included Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai and Vijayawada in cities with more than 10 lakh population; and Noida, Chandigarh, Mysuru, Ujjain and Gandhinagar among cities with 3 lakh to 10 lakh population. Among cities with a population of 3 lakh to 10 lakh, Mira Bhayandar got the top spot, followed by Bilaspur and Jamshedpur in the second and third places, respectively.

A special award was also given to the Uttar Pradesh government and Prayagraj Municipal Corporation for waste management during the Mahakumbh.

## **Union minister launches ADEETIE scheme to promote industrial energy efficiency.**

Union Minister of Power, Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar has launched Assistance for Deployment of Energy Efficient Technologies in Industrial Establishments (ADEETIE), a national scheme aiming to promote industrial energy efficiency, at an event in Panipat. This scheme will encourage MSMEs for energy efficiency projects through comprehensive financial and technical assistance.

It can help MSMEs reduce energy consumption by 30–50%, improve efficiency, and contribute to green energy corridors.

## **Akash Prime successfully tested in Ladakh by the Indian Army.**

To further strengthen the air defence system, the Indian Army has carried out successful trials of the indigenously developed Air Defence System “Akash Prime” in Ladakh. Akash Prime is an upgraded version of the Akash system, equipped with an indigenous active Radio Frequency (RF) seeker for enhanced precision irrespective of weather and terrain. The two-day trial was conducted at an altitude of over 15,000 feet in eastern Ladakh.

The Army Air Defence and DRDO, in conjunction with Defence PSUs such as Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited, and other Industry Partners have successfully validated the indigenously designed and developed Akash Prime Weapon System.

## **Prithvi-II and Agni-I missiles successfully test-fired from Chandipur.**

The Ministry of Defence has confirmed that short-range ballistic missiles Prithvi-II and Agni-I — were successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.

The launches validated all operational and technical parameters. These tests were conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, added the Ministry.

## **QS Best Student Cities 2026: Four Indian metro cities in top 150.**

Four Indian metro cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Bengaluru, were featured in the 2026 QS Best Student Cities rankings. Mumbai ranked at 98, Delhi at 104, Bangalore at 108, and Chennai at 128. Seoul, South Korea has topped the list followed by Tokyo, London, Munich, and Melbourne.

These cities were recognised for their growing education infrastructure, vibrant student communities, and improving global perception.

## **Business and Economy**

### **HDFC Bank chief Sashidhar Jagdishan is India's best-paid banker of FY25.**

Sashidhar Jagdishan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of HDFC Bank, emerged as India's highest-paid banker in the last financial year i.e. FY25. Jagdishan drew a salary of more than ₹12 crore in FY25, a 12% increase from the year before. In addition, he was allotted 212,052 shares in employee stock options (ESOPs). At the current market price of about ₹2,000 per share, these are valued at more than ₹42.4 crore.

Amitabh Chaudhry, MD and CEO of Axis Bank, earned a salary of ₹9.11 crore, a 5.4% decline from the previous year. He was allotted 259,429 stock options, valued at more than ₹30 crore at current market levels.

Ashok Vaswani, MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, took home nearly ₹13 crore in salary along with 18,580 ESOPs, valued at over ₹4 crore.

### **SBI launches Rs 25,000 cr QIP**

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its qualified institutional placement (QIP) of up to Rs 25,000 crore at a floor price of Rs 811.05 per equity share. The floor price of the bank's QIP has been set at Rs 811.05 per equity share, a discount of 2.5 per cent over the Wednesday's closing price of its shares at Rs 831.55 apiece. The QIP will result in a reduction in the government's ownership in SBI, which stood at 57.43 per cent as of March 31, 2025.

SBI's Rs 25,000 crore QIP is likely to be the biggest equity share sale to institutional buyers in the domestic capital markets, surpassing

Coal India's Rs 22,560 crore QIP launched in 2015

QIP is one of the capital raising instruments used by listed companies to raise funds by issuing equity shares to qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), including venture capital funds, pension funds and mutual funds. It is one of the important sources for fundraising for the listed players.

### **UPI overtakes Visa to become world's top real-time payments system.**

India's homegrown UPI now processes over 650 million transactions daily, surpassing Visa and redefining the future of digital payments. UPI has surpassed Visa, which processes 639 million daily transactions across over 200 countries. This milestone comes just nine years after UPI's launch. Despite Visa's presence in over 200 countries, UPI, currently active in only seven, has emerged as a formidable global player in digital payments.

Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI is an instant inter-bank payment system built for mobile platforms. It now processes more than 18 billion transactions every month and dominates the electronic retail payments space in India.

### **Taiwan's banks eyeing to expand branches in India.**

Taipei Fubon Bank and CTBC Bank from Taiwan are planning to establish branches in India, specifically within Gujarat's GIFT City. With this move, cross-border trade and finance ties between India and Taiwan are said to grow stronger. CTBC Bank already has two branches in India, one in New Delhi, another in Chennai.

### **Indian Overseas Bank cuts MCLR by 50 basis points across all tenors.**

Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has revised its Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rates (MCLR) by 50 basis points across all tenors with immediate effect. Accordingly, the revised MCLR for the overnight tenure has been reduced to 8.15 per cent from the existing 8.25 per cent.

Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rates are used in consumer loans, such as auto and personal loans. Borrowers whose loans are linked to this benchmark are expected to benefit from the reduced rates.

### **Google inks \$3 billion U.S. hydropower deal in largest clean energy agreement of its kind.**

Google has agreed to secure as much as 3 gigawatts of U.S. hydropower in the world's largest corporate clean power pact for hydroelectricity, as Big Tech pursues the expansion of energy-hungry data centers.

The deal between Google and Brookfield Asset Management includes initial 20-year power purchase agreements, totalling \$3 billion, for electricity generated from two hydropower facilities in Pennsylvania.

### **China's Baidu to deploy driverless cars on Uber.**

Chinese internet giant Baidu plans to launch its driverless cars on ride-hailing app Uber in Asia and the Middle East this year. The multi-year partnership will see thousands of Baidu's Apollo Go autonomous vehicles on the Uber platform across multiple global markets.

### **Sports**

### **Praggnanandhaa defeats World No.1 Carlsen to enter Freestyle chess quarterfinals.**

Indian Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has defeated world number one Magnus Carlsen to qualify for the quarterfinals of the Freestyle Grand Slam chess event in Las Vegas. He outplayed the Norwegian champion in just 39 moves in a dominant Round 4 clash. Praggnanandhaa, meanwhile, holds the joint lead in Group White with 4.5 points, alongside Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Javokhir Sindarov. Carlsen, who leads the overall tour standings, has now been knocked out of title contention.

### **Andre Russell to retire from International Cricket.**

West Indies's star all-rounder Andre Russel is set to retire from International Cricket. The Jamaican will play his last two international matches on July 20 and 22 at his home ground in Sabina Park, which is scheduled to host the first two T20Is against Australia. He has made 84 appearances in T20Is for the West Indies with 1078 runs and 61 wickets to his name. He was also part of the winning team in the 2012 and 2016 T20 World Cup editions.

**Lawn tennis player Jadala qualifies for Special Olympics 2027.**

Lakshmi Jadala, Asia's top-ranked para lawn tennis player with an intellectual disability, has won a gold medal at the National Tennis

Championship 2025 (Disability Sports) held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. With this win, 15-year-old Jadala has officially qualified for the Special Olympics World Games 2027, set to take place in Cairo, Egypt.