

## International

### PM Modi sets record with most foreign honours for an Indian PM.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III of Cyprus, the country's highest civilian honour. Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides had conferred the award on the Prime Minister. So far Prime Minister Modi has been honoured with 28 of the highest state awards from foreign nations between 2016 and 2025, in recognition of his visionary leadership.

The year 2023 saw him receiving a total of three international honours, which was surpassed in 2024 when he received six such awards.

### ILO adopts landmark convention on biological hazards in the working environment

The 113th International Labour Conference (ILC) was concluded in Geneva with the adoption of the first-ever international labour standards aimed at preventing exposure to, and protecting workers from, biological hazards in the workplace, a landmark step in global efforts to safeguard occupational health and safety across all sectors.

The Convention (C 192) calls on Member States to formulate national policies and adopt measures on occupational safety and health that include the prevention and protection against biological hazards, and the development of preparedness and response measures to deal with accidents and emergencies.

### England legend David Beckham receives knighthood.

Former England football captain and global fashion icon David Beckham was knighted for his services to sport and charity, with The Who singer Roger Daltrey and actor Gary Oldman also receiving the honour.

Beckham played 115 times for England as well as for some of the world's most high-profile clubs including Manchester United and Real Madrid.

### China launches satellite Zhangheng 1-02 for natural disaster monitoring.

China has launched an electromagnetic monitoring satellite named Zhangheng 1-02 successfully sending it into its planned orbit,

which is expected to enhance the country's space-air-ground integrated monitoring capabilities for major natural disasters.

The satellite will contribute to research into predictions of earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, extreme weather on the ground, and space weather events.

### Former New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern's memoir is out.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's long-awaited memoir, 'A Different Kind of Power', is finally out. With her signature warmth and candour, the former New Zealand Prime Minister shares her journey from a small-town upbringing to global leadership, all while navigating motherhood, crises, and burnout.

### India increased its nuclear warhead count to 180 in 2024: SIPRI report.

According to a yearbook report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India now possesses more nuclear warheads than Pakistan, with the number at 180 as opposed to Islamabad's 170, India had 172 warheads in 2024 and increased it to 180 in 2025. China is emerging rapidly with 600 warheads.

There are 12,241 nuke warheads globally, spread across nine nuclear-armed countries, with the United States and Russia owning 90 per cent of these. Russia tops the list with 5,459 nuclear warheads then followed by US with 5177.

## National

### Fifth FPV 'Achal' built by Goa Shipyard Ltd Launched for ICG.

'Achal', the fifth Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) in a series of eight being constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), was ceremoniously launched in Goa. Designed and constructed under stringent dual-class certification from the American Bureau of Shipping and Indian Register of Shipping, the FPV features over 60% indigenous content.

With its primary roles of protection, monitoring, control, and surveillance, 'Achal' is equipped to safeguard offshore assets and island territories.

## **Aberdeen becomes first Scottish university with plans to open campus in India.**

The University of Aberdeen is planning to open a campus in India. The institution has been granted permission by the Indian government to take forward proposals in Mumbai. The University of Aberdeen is the first of the UK's ancient universities and the first Scottish university to be granted permission for a branch campus in India.

India's University Grants Commission granted permission to progress with proposals to open a branch campus in Mumbai with a target launch of September 2026.

## **Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates India's largest Gatishakti Cargo Terminal in Manesar.**

Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, has inaugurated India's largest Gatishakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal in Manesar, Haryana. Mr Vaishnaw highlighted that the Cargo Terminal, sprawling across 45 acres, can carry 4 lakh 50 thousand vehicles. He noted that 108 Multimodal Cargo terminals are now ready and will soon be in service, realising the government's vision of a multimodal network.

## **Business and Economy**

### **SEBI approves NSE's expiry to Tuesday, BSE to Thursday.**

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has announced that it has received approval from the capital markets regulator SEBI to change the expiry day for equity derivatives from Thursday to Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has been given the go-ahead to shift its expiry day from Tuesday to Thursday.

### **MSC Bank sets up country's first cyber security operations centre.**

Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank has launched India's first cyber-security operation centre, 'Sahakar Suraksha,' in Navi Mumbai, costing Rs 50 crore. This initiative aims to protect cooperative banks from increasing cyber threats, which have caused significant financial losses.

MSC Bank Chairman Vidyadhar Anaskar said the bank's decision to launch the C-SOC

stemmed from a pressing need to protect cooperative banks and their customers from cyber fraud.

## **Aernnova Aerospace signs \$300 million multi-year sourcing contact with Mahindra Aerostructures.**

Aernnova Aerospace, SAU has signed a multi-year contract with Mahindra Aerostructures Pvt. Ltd. (MASPL) worth about \$300 million for manufacture of metal sub-assemblies and components for a range of Airbus aircraft and also for Embraer aircraft families (including the Embraer C390 Millennium military transport aircraft).

The contract covers the supply to several Aernnova sites in Spain, the U.K., Portugal and Brazil, further strengthening a collaboration that began in 2013.

## **Sports**

### **India's Team MGD1 win 2025 FIDE World Rapid Team Chess Championship.**

Team MGD1, with Indian Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi as their star player and N Srinath as the non-playing captain, won the FIDE World Rapid Team Championship 2025 in London. In the 12-round Swiss-format tournament with a time control of 15 minutes plus a 10-second increment from move one, Team MGD1 won 10 of 12 rounds, with one loss and one draw, finishing with 21 points.

Team MGD1 also featured the most Indian players in their squad. Alongside Erigaisi and Srinath, the team included Harikrishna Pentala, Pranav V, Leon Luke Mendonca, Atharvaa Tayade, and Hariharan Raghavan.

### **Mumbai International Chess: Local teen Maniar holds Grandmaster Mikulas to draw.**

In a stunning start to the Mumbai International Grandmaster Chess Tournament, 13-year-old local talent Hriday Maniar held Slovak Grandmaster Manik Mikulas to a draw in the first round. Despite a rating gap of nearly 500 points, Hriday played with calm and precision, earning the biggest result of his young career.

The nine-round Swiss tournament features 293 players from 18 countries.