

International

Israel launches ground assault on Gaza City.

Thousands of Palestinians are fleeing Gaza City as Israel launches a ground invasion, escalating the conflict in one of the world's most densely populated regions. The move comes amid a United Nations genocide report and global warnings that the Israel-Gaza war could spiral into an even deeper humanitarian catastrophe. In launching the assault, Israel's government has defied European leaders who threatened sanctions. A United Nations Commission of Inquiry concluded that Israel had committed genocide in Gaza, incited by top officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

India to make landmark presence at Busan International Film Festival 2025.

India is set to make a significant mark at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) 2025 and the Asian Contents & Film Market (ACFM) in South Korea. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Dr L. Murugan, will lead the first-ever Ministerial Delegation from India to BIFF. The 30th Busan International Film Festival will continue till 26th September.

The Busan International Film Festival is one of Asia's most prestigious film festivals, recognised by FIAPF alongside the International Film Festival of India and the Cannes Film Festival.

WTO's long-awaited global agreement to curb overfishing takes effect.

A World Trade Organisation agreement aimed at reducing overfishing took effect on September 15, requiring countries to reduce subsidies doled out to fishing fleets and aiming to ensure sustainability of wildlife in the world's seas and oceans. The agreement will require countries to limit some of the USD 22 billion in subsidies worldwide that encourage practices by fleets that deplete fish stocks, and will create a fish fund that can help developing countries implement it.

The deal, championed by WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, formally took effect on Monday after four more countries, Brazil, Kenya, Tonga, and Vietnam, adopted it.

China, the United States, and the European Union's 27-member states are among those that have signed on, while India and Indonesia have been among the holdouts.

Global Innovation Index 2025: India has risen to 38th position.

India has risen to the 38th position among 139 positions compared to the 81st position ten years ago, in the World Intellectual Property Organisation's Global Innovation Index 2025.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation's (WIPO) Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, R&D growth fell to 2.9 per cent in 2024 and is projected to drop further to 2.3 per cent in 2025.

Europe leads as the most innovative region, with 15 countries in the global top 25. Switzerland tops the Global Innovation Index (GII) for a 15th consecutive year. Sweden and the United States of America retain their 2nd and 3rd positions for the third year in a row.

The GII 2025 evaluates global innovation performance using nearly 80 indicators that measure R&D spending, venture capital deals, technological outputs, and intellectual property strength

National

9th edition of Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 kicks off.

The 9th edition of Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 began across the nation. The campaign will culminate on 2nd October on Gandhi Jayanti. The 15-day campaign aims to mobilise millions across the nation in a collective call to action for high-impact swachhata drives. Launched jointly by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, SHS 2025 focuses on bringing together citizens, communities, and institutions to drive visible cleanliness on the ground, with a focus on Cleanliness Target Units-dark, dirty, and neglected spots.

NITI Aayog launches AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap and NITI Frontier Tech Repository.

NITI Aayog has launched two transformative initiatives, AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap: Opportunity for Accelerated Economic

Growth and NITI Frontier Tech
Repository under its Frontier Tech Hub.

The AI vision roadmap lays down the framework for accelerating AI adoption in India and boosting research and development (R&D) among private firms. Accelerated adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across industries can contribute USD 500-600 billion to India's GDP by 2035 on the back of increased productivity and efficiency in the workforce.

The Frontier Tech Repository showcases 200+ impact stories from across India in four sectors – Agriculture, Healthcare, Education, and National Security. It brings to life how states and startups are deploying technology with purpose to transform livelihoods.

IGNCA launches ‘Mann ki Baat’ art exhibition inspired by PM Modi’s radio programme.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts – IGNCA has inaugurated the ‘Mann ki Baat’ art exhibition, inspired by the Akashvani radio programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The exhibition features a series of paintings by Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Bahadur Rai. The IGNCA said that the art exhibition makes a unique attempt to interpret the programme through paintings, with each artwork accompanied by a brief description, enabling viewers to engage with ‘Mann ki Baat’ in a renewed way.

Business and Economy

U.S. Federal Reserve cuts interest rate by 0.25 points.

The US Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate by a quarter point on September 17, 2025, and projected it would do so twice more this year as concern grows at the central bank about the health of the nation’s labour market.

The move is the Fed’s first cut since December and lowered its short-term rate to about 4.1%, down from 4.3%.

SBI divests 13.18% stake in Yes Bank.

State Bank of India has announced the completion of the divestment of about 13.18% stake in Yes Bank to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation of Japan for ₹8,888.97 crore. The bank has received ₹8,888.97 crore from the

acquirer Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), a Japanese multinational financial services company belonging to the Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG).

Finance Ministry’s financial inclusion push sees 61 lakh new bank accounts.

In the last 2.5 months, the Ministry of Finance has opened more than 61 lakh new bank accounts and has created more than 2.6 crore fresh enrolments in its three flagship insurance schemes as a part of its three-month Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign.

Launched on July 1, 2025, the campaign was conducted by the Department of Financial Services with an aim to include every last person in the country under financial inclusion schemes.

RBI issues revised guidelines for payment aggregators to enhance consumer protection.

The Reserve Bank has issued revised guidelines for payment aggregators (PAs) to bolster consumer protection and combat fraud.

Under the updated framework, PAs that facilitate customer payments to merchants via various physical or virtual channels must implement a board-approved dispute resolution policy clearly defining the timelines for processing refunds, ensuring prompt and transparent redressal of payment-related grievances. To address growing risks of digital fraud, the RBI has also mandated that PAs must put in place data security infrastructure, along with systems for fraud detection and prevention. While banks are exempt from seeking authorisation to operate as PAs, non-bank entities must apply via the RBI’s online portal. Non-bank PAs must seek RBI authorisation under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Such entities are required to be incorporated in India and maintain a minimum net-worth of Rs 15 crore at the time of application, which should be increased to Rs 25 crore by the end of the third financial year.

The new guidelines also prohibit PAs from engaging in marketplace business and restrict them to aggregating funds only for merchants with whom they have a contractual relationship.

Additionally, PAs are barred from offering an ATM PIN as an authentication factor for card-not-present transactions.

Bima Sugam entity's website launched.

Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF), the entity that will steer the electronic marketplace Bima Sugam, mooted by insurance regulator IRDAI, has launched its official website. It marks the first visible step in building India's pioneering digital public infrastructure for insurance, IRDAI said after chairman Ajay Seth unveiled the website. The rollout of platform features, however, will follow a phased approach, ensuring the highest levels of security, compliance and scalability.

Simple Energy makes the country's first rare-earth-free motors.

IPO-bound electric scooter maker Simple Energy has become India's first original equipment manufacturer to commercially produce heavy, rare-earth-free motors for electric vehicles at its Hosur, Tamil Nadu production facility. Heavy rare earth elements, primarily sourced from a limited number of countries, are

typically used in electric vehicle motors due to their high torque density and compact size.

CSC crosses ₹3,000 Cr in loan disbursements since July 2023 under Digital India Push.

In a landmark stride for financial inclusion under the Digital India initiative, Common Services Centres, e-Governance Services India Limited, has crossed the significant milestone of disbursing three thousand crore rupees in loans since July 2023. The programme has shown rapid growth, with disbursements of 86 crore rupees in 2023-24, one thousand 631 crore in 2024-25, and one thousand 300 crore rupees till August this year in the current financial year.

Sports

Smriti Mandhana reclaims No. 1 spot in ICC Women's ODI batting rankings.

Team India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has reclaimed the top spot in the latest ICC Women's Cricket ODI batting rankings. The opening batter dethroned England skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt after a fine half-century against Australia in the series opener.