

International

Indian-Origin Doctor Mumtaz Patel is now President of UK's Royal College of Physicians.

Indian-Origin Doctor Dr Mumtaz Patel has been elected as the 123rd president of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). She will now be heading the UK's medical professional membership body representing 40,000 members around the world.

Dr Mumtaz Patel serves as a National Health Service (NHS) England post-graduate associate dean in the north-west and is recognised as having established a strong track record in education, training, assessment and research.

Elon Musk's SpaceX is frontrunner to build Trump's Golden Dome missile shield.

Elon Musk's SpaceX and two partners have emerged as frontrunners to win a crucial part of President Donald Trump's "Golden Dome" missile defense shield. Musk's rocket and satellite company is partnering with software maker Palantir and drone builder Anduril, on a bid to build key parts of Golden Dome, which has drawn significant interest from the technology sector's burgeoning base of defense startups.

Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

Manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra are among the 74 new additions to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register this year, marking a significant recognition of India's cultural legacy.

These additions come from 72 countries and four international organisations, covering entries on the scientific revolution, women's contributions to history, and key milestones in multilateralism. With these, the total number of inscribed collections now stands at 570.

Natyashastra, authored by Bharat Muni, is regarded as a foundational text on performing arts and continues to influence drama, dance, and music traditions in India and beyond.

Major nations agree on first-ever global fee on greenhouse gases.

Many of the world's largest shipping nations have decided to impose a minimum fee of \$100 for every ton of greenhouse gases emitted by

ships above certain thresholds, in what is effectively the first global tax on greenhouse gas emissions.

The agreement, reached with the United States notably absent, is expected to be formally adopted at an October meeting to take effect in 2027. The IMO, which regulates international shipping, also set a marine fuel standard to phase in cleaner fuels.

World Heritage day 2025 celebrated globally on April 18.

World Heritage Day is being celebrated on 18th April across the globe to honour and protect cultural and natural heritage. It is also called the International Day for Monuments and Sites. This year, the theme of the day is "Heritage Under Threat from Disaster and Conflicts".

National

India signs first Defence MoU with Slovakia.

India and Slovakia have signed their first defence Memorandum of Understanding, with JCBL Group's defence unit Airbornics Defence & Space Pvt. Ltd. (ADSL) set to co-develop technologies for next-generation combat vehicles under India's indigenous manufacturing initiative.

The partnership aims to facilitate technology transfer and co-development of combat platforms designed for complex terrains and high-altitude environments, with all manufacturing to be conducted in India

PM Modi's book on Indian culture Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay released.

A compiled book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's thoughts and speeches on culture titled 'Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay' was released in New Delhi. The book is a curated collection of speeches by Prime Minister Modi delivered on various occasions, highlighting Indian culture, traditions, spiritual values, and cultural heritage

The foreword of the book is written by Ram Bahadur Rai, and the compilation has been done by Dr. Prabhat Ojha.

IAF's Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla to fly to ISS next month.

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla will travel to the International Space Station next month.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force will be part of the upcoming Axiom Space mission, Ax-4, making him the first Indian to participate in an international commercial spaceflight to the ISS.

Arvind Shrivastava to head revenue dept.

The Centre appointed Secretaries in different Ministries and Departments. Arvind Shrivastava has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Revenue, in the Ministry of Finance. He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. Samir Kumar Sinha, who is working as Director General (Acquisitions) in the Ministry of Defence, has been appointed as Secretary, Civil Aviation.

Mangi Lal Jat appointed as director general of ICAR.

Mangi Lal Jat, presently Director, global research programme on resilient farm and food systems at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), has been appointed as the new secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Dr. Jat has been appointed for three years from the date of assuming charge.

Business and Economy

US Fed Chairman warns of lasting economic consequences due to Trump's tariff policy.

US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell warned that Donald Trump's sweeping reciprocal tariff policy is likely to increase inflation, despite the President's earlier promises to lower prices upon taking office. Powell noted that the announced tariff hikes are significantly larger than expected. He warned that the economic consequences such as higher inflation and slower growth are likely to follow.

Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu named among WEF's young global leaders.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has named Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu and six others from India among the young global leaders. Apart from Naidu, there are six others from India on the list. They are Ritesh Agarwal, Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer, OYO Hotels and Homes; Alok

Medikepura Anil, Managing Director, Next Big Innovation Labs; Natarajan Sankar, Managing Director and Partner, Boston Consulting Group; Nipun Malhotra, Founder, Nipman Foundation; Manasi Subramaniam, Editor-in-Chief and Vice-President, Penguin Random House and Anurag Maloo, Mountaineer, Entrepreneur & Keynote Speaker, Orophile Ventures (Climbing4SDGs).

WEF unveiled its 2025 cohort of young global leaders -- 116 exceptional individuals under the age of 40 who are redefining leadership in a changing world.

SBI, HDFC only Indian banks in world's 100 largest by assets: S&P

State Bank of India and HDFC Bank are the only Indian banks that have found its place on the latest S&P Global Market Intelligence ranking of the world's 100 largest banks by assets. SBI climbed four places to the 43rd place. HDFC Bank climbed one place to the 73rd place. Chinese lenders dominated the ranking list.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd., Agricultural Bank of China Ltd., China Construction Bank Corp. and Bank of China Ltd. occupied the top four spots

India's smart phone exports touched record two lakh crore rupees in the last fiscal.

India's smartphone exports have reached a record level of two lakh crore rupees in the last fiscal. Smartphones have emerged as India's largest export in the first ten months of the last financial year. This was stated by Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

In 2013-14, India's smartphone exports were ranked 167th and now it has reached the number one position.

RBI, FIU-IND Sign MoU to bolster anti-money laundering efforts.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) signed an MoU as part of continued coordinated efforts in effective implementation of requirements of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Rules framed under it.

The MoU includes sharing of relevant intelligence and information, available in their respective database and upgradation of anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism skills in the regulated entities.

Fitch cuts India growth estimates by 10 bps to 6.4%

Fitch Ratings cut India's GDP growth estimate by 10 basis points to 6.4% for the current fiscal, but retained the projections for the next financial year, on concerns over a 'severe' escalation in global trade war.

Kotak Mahindra, IDFC First, PNB penalized by RBI for violating regulatory guidelines

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties on Kotak Mahindra Bank, IDFC First Bank, and Punjab National Bank for certain deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

A penalty of Rs 61.4 lakh has been imposed on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Guidelines on Loan System for Delivery of Bank Credit' and 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.

A penalty of Rs 38.6 lakh has been imposed on IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions of 'Know Your Customer (KYC)'. A penalty of Rs 29.6 lakh has been imposed on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance.

Warburg Pincus, ADIA to invest up to \$877 million in IDFC First Bank.

IDFC FIRST Bank will raise up to 75 billion rupees (\$877 million) from affiliate firms of private equity group Warburg Pincus and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) sovereign wealth fund.

IDFC FIRST Bank will issue Warburg Pincus, an existing investor, and ADIA convertible shares, which, if fully converted, will give them a combined 15% stake in the bank.

ITC to acquire 24 Mantra Organic for ₹472 crore.

ITC Ltd has signed a Share Purchase Agreement to acquire 100% of the share capital of Sresta Natural Bioproducts Private Ltd (SNBPL), an Indian company primarily engaged in the business of manufacture and sale of organic packaged food products under the '24 Mantra Organic' brand for ₹472 crore.

SNBPL is into domestic organic foods space providing fully integrated 'Farm to Fork' traceability and is in the organic packaged staples category in India.

India's BluSmart, rival of Uber, suspends operations after co-founder probed.

Indian electric cab service BluSmart, seen as a rival to Uber, suspended services, days after a market regulator's investigation found a co-founder misused funds at an affiliate company and bought a luxury apartment with money allocated for electric vehicles.

BluSmart rode India's clean energy boom but its sudden suspension puts the livelihood of thousands of drivers at risk. With more than 8,000 taxis, it set up charging hubs in cities like New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru to take on Uber and Ola, both ride-hailing services that largely use gasoline-powered fleets.

Sports

India's Shourya Ambure wins bronze in U-18 100m Hurdles.

India's Shourya Ambure has won the bronze medal in the Under-18 Women's 100 metre Hurdles at the Asian Youth Championships in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. The 15-year-old clocked 13.80 seconds to secure a spot on the podium, marking her second consecutive personal best in as many days.

Himanshu Jakhar wins country's first-ever gold in U-18 Asian Athletics Championships in Javelin.

India's Himanshu Jakhar made history by winning the country's first-ever Asian U18 Athletics Championships gold in the men's javelin throw in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. His winning throw of 67.57 meters, though lower than his personal best of 74.56 meters, was enough to secure the top position on the podium. India concluded its campaign on a high note, finishing the championship with a total haul of 11 medals – comprising 1 Gold, 5 Silver, and 5 Bronze.

Nishchay throws 19.59m to bag Silver in Shot-Put at Asian U-18 Athletics Championship.

India's Nishchay grabbed his second medal of the meet as he won a silver with a personal best effort of 19.59 meters in the boys' shot-put event on the third day of the Asian Under-18 Athletics Championship in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. His earlier personal best was 18.93 meters, which he achieved last month.