

International

Thousands of Palestinians leave Gaza City fearing an Israeli offensive.

Fearing an imminent Israeli ground offensive, thousands of Palestinians have left their homes in eastern areas of Gaza City, now under constant Israeli bombardment. Israel's plan to seize control of Gaza City has stirred alarm abroad and at home, where tens of thousands of Israelis held some of the largest protests since the war began, urging a deal to end the fighting and free the remaining 50 hostages held by Palestinian militants in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

U.S. revokes over 6,000 student visas for crimes, terrorism links.

The U.S. State Department has revoked more than 6,000 student visas over overstays and violations of American law, including serious crimes and terrorism-related activities. Of the total, about two-thirds were linked directly to criminal activity.

In May, President Donald Trump's administration has temporarily halted new interview appointments for people applying for visas to study in the United States.

Dubai launches AI-powered passenger corridor to clear immigration in seconds.

Dubai International Airport (DXB), the world's busiest hub for international travel, has launched an AI-powered passenger corridor that allows travellers to clear immigration in seconds without presenting documents. Part of the "Travel Without Borders" initiative, the system represents a major leap in smart travel technology, combining speed, security, and convenience. Facial recognition and pre-registered biometric data confirm identities in as little as 14 seconds, removing the need for passport counters, smart gates, or physical checks.

English actor Terence Stamp passes away.

Terence Stamp, the English actor who often played the role of a complex villain, including that of General Zod in the early Superman films, has died. He was 87. In a career that spanned six decades, the Oscar-nominated actor starred

in films including *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, and *Valkyrie*.

MIT Scientists develop superbug-killing antibiotics using generative AI.

Scientists have developed two potential antibiotics using artificial intelligence (AI) that could kill drug-resistant gonorrhoea and MRSA. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) used generative AI algorithms to scan through a list of potential molecules to predict which one could work as an antibiotic for the superbugs. AI also helped scientists avoid structures that could be harmful to humans or too similar to existing drugs. After identifying the molecules, both new antibiotics were able to kill strains of bacteria that are becoming increasingly difficult to treat with existing antibiotics.

National

Varanasi becomes India's first city to get portable solar panels between railway tracks.

Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi has become the country's first city to have portable solar panels between railway tracks.

Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi, has commissioned India's first 70m removable solar panel system (28 panels, 15KWp) between railway tracks—a step towards green and sustainable rail transport.

Centre aims Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035 & Man on Moon by 2040.

Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has reiterated the government's commitment to establishing an operational Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035 and sending an Indian crewed mission to the Moon by 2040. He said, these missions will be accomplished prior to the target set to become Vikshit Bharat by 2047.

The Minister said this while speaking during a special discussion in the Lok Sabha on India's First Astronaut Aboard the International Space Station – Critical Role of Space Programme for 'Viksit Bharat By 2047'.

Business and Economy

NBFCs tap \$3.67 billion in overseas syndicated loans.

Data from the LSEG Loan Connector, a global loan data website, showed that Indian NBFCs raised \$3.67 billion so far in 2025 from the syndicated loan market overseas, compared with \$1.64 billion garnered in the whole of 2024. The fundraising climbed sharply despite a 2.35% depreciation in the rupee against the US dollar so far in 2025. Banks participating in such loans carry repayment risks inherent in a depreciating currency.

Bankers said that increasing loan deals for Indian NBFCs show more overseas banks are willing to commit loan funds to Indian companies.

ARCs triple retail SR issuance in Q1.

Asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) ramped up purchases of retail loan pools in the first quarter of FY26, issuing ₹1,713 crore in security receipts (SRs) against just ₹496 crore a year earlier. The threefold jump in retail SR issuance provided a rare boost to the market, even as corporate SR issuance declined. Corporate SR issuance dropped to ₹2,675 crore in Q1 from ₹3,182 crore in the same period last year, reflecting lower demand for large-ticket distressed assets.

UPI transactions surge in 2025, daily average value crosses Rs 90,000 crore in August.

According to a report by SBI, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions have expanded significantly in 2025, both in terms of value and volume. In terms of value, the report highlighted that average daily transactions rose from Rs 75,743 crore in January to Rs 80,919 crore in July. The momentum further accelerated in August (so far), with the average daily value touching Rs 90,446 crore.

State Bank of India emerged as the top remitter member, handling 5.2 billion transactions. Yes Bank took the top position as the leading beneficiary member, with nearly 8.0 billion transactions.

Maharashtra has emerged as the number one state in UPI usage, accounting for a 9.8 per cent share in July alone. Karnataka followed with 5.5 per cent, while Uttar Pradesh stood close at 5.3 per cent.

NTPC becomes first PSU to adopt global standard for power supply continuity.

NTPC Limited has become the first public sector company in the country's power industry to implement a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) aligned with ISO 22301:2019, the international benchmark for Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS). This strategic initiative strengthens NTPC's ability to ensure uninterrupted power generation and supply under all circumstances.

A business continuity plan is a formal set of procedures designed to help an organisation prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptions such as natural disasters, cyberattacks, supply chain issues, or technical breakdowns while protecting employees and assets.

Kotak Mahindra International becomes the first Indian firm to receive SCA license for investment and portfolio management in the UAE.

Kotak International has secured a license from the UAE to offer investment funds to retail investors, becoming the first Indian firm to do so. This move allows Kotak to directly target retail clients, with minimum investments of around \$500, capitalizing on the growing interest in Indian markets and the UAE's favourable tax environment.

The company plans to launch funds aligned with its successful UCITS (Luxembourg-domiciled) and India-domiciled strategies, with subscriptions expected to open for UAE investors by the final quarter of CY2025.

SBI's special loan scheme for Agniveers.

State Bank of India has unveiled a special personal loan scheme tailored for Agniveers, coinciding with the 79th Independence Day celebrations. This initiative is an extension of SBI's Defence Salary Package and offers a remarkable benefit to Agniveers with salary accounts at the bank. The scheme grants loans up to ₹4 lakh without requiring collateral and waives processing fees entirely. The bank has set a flat interest rate of 10.50% for all defence personnel availing of this scheme, effective until 30 September 2025, with the repayment tenure aligned with the Agnipath recruitment programme.

Sports

Asian Shooting Championship, Kazakhstan: Girish Gupta wins gold in 10m air pistol.

India's Girish Gupta has won gold in the 10m air pistol men's youth event of the 16th Asian Shooting Championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. He shot 241.3 in the final, surpassing compatriot Dev Pratap, who shot 238.6 to win silver. India concluded Day One with two gold and three silver medals.

Kapil Bainsla has won gold in the junior men's air pistol, and both the senior and junior men's teams earned silver medals.

Silesia Diamond League 2025: Thompson beats Lyles.

Jamaica's Kishane Thompson defeated Olympic champion Noah Lyles over 100m at the Silesia

Diamond League meet. It was the first time the two sprinters had met since Lyles was awarded Olympic gold in Paris a year ago, just five-thousandths of a second ahead of Thompson.

The fast-starting Jamaican timed a joint meet record of 9.87s for victory in the Polish city of Chorzow, with Lyles second in 9.90sec. Another American, Kenny Bednarek, rounded out the podium in 9.96sec.

NSW Squash Bega Open: Anahat finishes runner-up.

Habiba Hani of Egypt beat India's Anahat Singh in the final of the \$27,500 Bega Open PSA women's squash tournament in Australia. Habiba led 9-11, 11-5, 11-8, 10-4 when Anahat retired, unable to sustain her challenge owing to an ankle injury.