

International

Mali passes controversial bill granting General Goïta five more years in power.

Mali's Council of Ministers have adopted a controversial bill granting the head of the military junta, General Assimi Goïta, an additional five years in power. The bill will revise the Transition Charter, giving the Head of State a five-year renewable mandate. Junta leader Goïta has led the West African nation since orchestrating two coups in 2020 and 2021.

Mali, a landlocked nation in the semi-arid Sahel region, has been embroiled in political instability that has swept across West and Central Africa over the past decade.

UN General Assembly declares Dec 4 as international day against unilateral coercive measures.

The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution declaring December 4 every year as the International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures. The resolution passed with 116 votes in favour, 51 against, and 6 abstentions. It urges all states to refrain from using unilateral economic, financial, or trade measures that violate international law or the UN Charter.

The resolution aims to raise global awareness of the harmful impact of these measures.

Copenhagen replaces Vienna as the most liveable city in the world in 2025.

According to the 2025 Global Liveability Index released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Copenhagen has been declared the world's most liveable city in 2025, surpassing Vienna due to its strong performance in stability, education, and infrastructure. Vienna, now tied in second place with Zurich, maintained perfect scores in education, infrastructure, and healthcare.

While Western Europe dominates the top rankings, some cities like London and Manchester experienced declines. Cities in the Middle East and North Africa showed the most improvement, while Damascus remained at the bottom of the index.

National

India launches Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran.

India has launched Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran in view of the deteriorating situation due to the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel. As a first step, the Indian Embassy in Tehran has evacuated 110 Indian students from northern Iran, assisting them in safely crossing over into Armenia.

The students travelled by road to the Armenian capital, Yerevan, under the supervision of Indian Missions in Iran and Armenia.

Indian Navy set to commission INS Arnala, first in ASW-SWC series.

INS Arnala, the first of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, has been commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam, enhancing coastal defense capabilities. Built by GRSE Kolkata, it features advanced sonar and indigenous components, replacing older corvettes. The vessel will safeguard India's ports and boost maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

INS Arnala is the first of 16 ASW-SWC vessels being inducted into the Indian Navy. It is named after the historic Arnala Fort, off the coast of Maharashtra.

More than 10 cr free LPG connections distributed under Ujjwala Yojana.

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri has said more than 10 crore 33 lakh free LPG connections have been distributed across the country under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. He said, India is moving towards energy security goals with the focus on green, sustainable and innovative sources of energy.

Centre plans to implement nationwide scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi on the implementation of the nationwide scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims. He highlighted the

urgent need to curb the alarming rate of road accident fatalities nationwide. He said the initiative's success is essential to achieving India's pledge to reduce road accident deaths by 50 percent by 2030, as reaffirmed in the 2020 Stockholm Declaration.

Govt to launch FASTag-based annual pass for seamless, cost-effective travel across national highways.

The Union government will introduce a FASTag-based annual pass priced at three thousand rupees from 15th August this year, which will enable seamless and cost-effective travel across National Highways throughout the country. This annual pass will be valid for one year from the date of activation or up to 200 trips. This pass is designed exclusively for non-commercial private vehicles such as cars, jeeps, and vans.

The Minister said that this policy addresses long-standing concerns regarding toll plazas located within a 60-kilometre range and simplifies toll payments through a single, affordable transaction.

India, US conduct maiden Special Forces drill 'Tiger Claw'.

In a first-of-its-kind independent Special Forces exercise between India and the United States, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF) have successfully conducted Exercise "Tiger Claw" across North India. During the two-week-long joint exercise, the two forces engaged in mutual exchange of best practices in special operations, conducted joint training, and built interoperability capabilities.

CROPIC : New scheme to study crops using AI to be launched.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare plans to launch CROPIC, a study to gather crop information using field photographs and AI-based models.

CROPIC stands for Collection of Real Time Observations & Photo of Crops. According to the plan, crops will be photographed four-five times during their cycle, and the pictures will be analysed to assess their health and potential mid-season losses. The CROPIC mobile app has been developed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

The study will be carried out for two seasons initially, kharif 2025 and rabi 2025-26.

Kathak exponent Mangala Bhatt passes away.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Award-winning Kathak exponent Mangala Bhatt passed away in Hyderabad due to a brain hemorrhage. She was 62. For the past 35 years, she has run the Aakruti Kathak Kendra in Hyderabad and has made hundreds of disciples in Kathak Dance. She was trained in Jaipur Gharana by Pandit Durgalal in Delhi.

Former ISRO Scientist Nellai Su. Muthu dies.

Nellai Su.Muthu, a former scientist of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), passed away in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram due to ill health. He was 74. He worked as a senior scientist at the ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. He is also the recipient of the Kavimamani Award presented by the World Tamil Poets Association of Malaysia.

He has authored more than 70 books on topics varying from science, children's literature, poetry, history, translation, to criticism. His literary corpus on science runs into over 100 books.

Business and Economy

Gems, jewellery exports down 15.81% to \$2,263 mn in May: GJEPC.

According to Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) data, the overall gems and jewellery exports declined 15.81% to \$2,263.42 million (₹19,260.81 crore) in May compared to the same period of the previous year following tariff announcement by the U.S. The industry exports stood at \$2,688.38 million (₹22,414.02 crore) during the same period of 2024.

Dassault-Reliance announce final assembly line in Nagpur for manufacturing Falcon 2000.

French manufacturer of military aircraft and business jets, Dassault Aviation, and Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary, Reliance Aerostructure Limited (RAL) has announced a landmark strategic partnership to manufacture Falcon 2000 business executive jets in India for the global markets with a final assembly line in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

The first flight of Falcon 2000 'Made in India' from Indian soil is aimed for 2028.

Anuradha Thakur to replace Ajay Seth on SEBI Board.

Economic Affairs Secretary designate Anuradha Thakur will be new member in the Board of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Her appointment to the board will be effective from July 1. She will replace, outgoing Finance and Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth who is retiring on June 30. Seth is also the board member of the Reserve Bank of India as an ex-officio member.

The SEBI Board comprises of Chairman, four full time members and three part time members.

Sports

WR Chess wins 2025 FIDE World Blitz Team Championship.

WR Chess team has defended its title as they defeated KazChess 4-2 in both matches at the 2025 FIDE World Blitz Team Championship. Hexamind Chess Team won the third place. WR Chess team is powered by a star-studded line-up that included Hikaru Nakamura, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Alireza Firouzja, Wesley So, Jan-Krzysztof Duda, and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. It swept through the knockout stages to claim gold.

Chennai to host Hockey India Masters Cup.

The Hockey India Masters Cup for men and women kicked off in Chennai. This 10-day tournament, hosted by the Tamil Nadu Hockey Unit, features men in the 40 age group and women over 35. Twelve men's teams and eight women's teams are taking part in the event. There will be group matches followed by the knockout stage and the finals. This is the first edition of the tournament, providing a special platform for veteran hockey players in India.