

(19th May, 2025)

International

Romania begins Presidential runoff.

Romanian voters have started casting ballots in a decisive presidential runoff, which pits George Simion, leader of the Alliance for the Union of Romanians, against Nicusor Dan, the mayor of Bucharest. The election marks the second round of a rerun after the 2024 presidential results were annulled due to allegations of irregular campaigning practices and foreign interference.

IMF adds 11 more conditions to Pakistan bailout.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slapped 11 new conditions on Pakistan for the release of the next tranche of its bailout programme and warned that tensions with India could heighten risks to the scheme's fiscal, external, and reform goals. The IMF slapped 11 more conditions on Pakistan, taking the total conditions to 50.

The new conditions imposed on Pakistan include the parliamentary approval of a new 17.6 trillion-rupee budget, an increase in the debt servicing surcharge on electricity bills and lifting restrictions on the import of more than three-year-old used cars.

World's first human bladder transplant performed in California.

A team of US surgeons has performed the world's first in-human bladder transplant. Surgeons in Southern California have performed the first human bladder transplant, introducing a new, potentially life-changing procedure for people with debilitating bladder conditions.

The operation was performed earlier this month by a pair of surgeons from the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California on a 41-year-old man who had lost much of his bladder capacity from treatments for a rare form of bladder cancer.

National

Govt to send all party delegation to 32 nations to highlight India's anti-terror resolve.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that seven All-Party delegations will soon engage with key nations under Operation Sindoor. In a social media post, Mr. Rijiju shared the list of MPs and delegations representing this united front.

The seven groups comprising 59 Members of Parliament will visit a total of 32 countries. The first group, led by BJP MP Bajjayant Panda, will visit Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Algeria.

The second group, led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, will visit the UK, France, Germany, the EU, Italy, and Denmark.

The third delegation will be led by JDU MP Sanjay Kumar Jha which will visit Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore.

The fourth group, led by Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Eknath Shinde, will visit the UAE, Liberia, Congo, and Sierra Leone.

The fifth delegation, led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, will visit the US, Panama, Guyana, Brazil, and Colombia.

The sixth delegation, led by DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, will visit Spain, Greece, Slovenia, Latvia, and Russia.

The seventh group will be led by NCP (SCP) MP Supriya Sule, will visit Egypt, Qatar, Ethiopia, and South Africa

ISRO forms probe panel after PSLV-C61 failure.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has formed a committee to investigate the incident in which a PSLV rocket failed to place the Earth observation satellite, EOS-09, into its intended orbit. ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said that the committee held several rounds of discussions to identify the cause. ISRO failed to place its Earth observation satellite in orbit after the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C61) rocket developed a fault minutes after launch from Sriharikota.

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IIFT announces establishment of its first overseas campus in Dubai

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has announced the establishment of its first overseas campus in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This marks a key step in expanding IIFT's global presence and strengthening India's engagement in international business education.

IIT Delhi launches 'Manasvi' mentorship to for high-school Girls in STEM

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi hosted a STEM Mentorship Programme for High School Girls named 'Manasvi' in New Delhi. The programme is a flagship initiative by the Academic Outreach and New Initiatives Office at IIT Delhi and aims to inspire young girls to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

NCC Cadets Scale Everest and hoist tricolour.

The team comprised 10 NCC cadets along with four officers, two junior commissioned officers, one girl cadet instructor and 10 non-commissioned officers. The ten cadets include five boys and five girls. The expedition was flagged off by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh from New Delhi on 3rd April. The team, comprising the youngest climbers with an average age of 19 years, became the centre of attraction and were noted for their fitness and discipline during acclimatisation training at various stages of the ascent.

Business and Economy

BEL signs contract with Indian Army Air Defence to manufacture IDDIS Counter Drone System.

Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has signed a contract with Indian Army Air Defence to manufacture Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDDIS). The company also said that it has received additional orders worth ₹572 crore since the last disclosure on 7th April 2025.

Major orders received include IDDIS, Software Defined Radio (SDR), and Data

Communication Unit (DCU) for attack guns, AI based solutions for ships, simulators, communication equipment, jammers, spares, services, among others.

Adani partners with Sparton to develop anti-submarine warfare solutions.

Adani's group has signed a deal with a U.S. undersea warfare company Sparton to develop electronic sensors and navigation systems that could be used for anti-submarine warfare.

Adani Defence & Aerospace has signed a binding collaboration agreement with Sparton (DeLeon Springs LLC) to assemble anti-submarine warfare (ASW) solutions for the Indian Navy. The partnership aims to localise the production and assembly of complex electronic sensors, navigation systems, and ASW solutions in India under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives, reducing India's dependence on imports and foreign OEMs for critical naval technologies

70 applications received for scheme to produce electronic components.

The Central government has received 70 applications for its ₹23,000-crore electronics component manufacturing scheme, and a majority of the applicants are small and medium enterprises, according to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Sports

India wins 2025 SAFF U-19 Football Title.

India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship 2025, beating Bangladesh 4-3 in a penalty shootout in the final at the Yupia Outdoor Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh. The home team defeated the reigning champions after a 1-1 equaliser, which led to the penalty shootout.

India's Shami Singamayum successfully netted the decisive penalty, helping the home side to lift the title.

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Squash World Championships: El Sherbini wins record-equalling 8th title, Asal clinches maiden crown.

Egyptians Nour El Sherbini and Mostafa Asal were crowned the women's and men's champions, respectively at the Squash World Championships in Chicago. Playing her 10th straight final at the event, El Sherbini defeated compatriot and World No. 3 Hania El Hammamy 3-1 (11-5, 11-9, 4-11, 11-7) to clinch her eighth title. World No. 2 El Sherbini matched Nicol David's all-time record of eight World Championship crowns.

In the men's final, World No. 1 Asal defeated World No. 2 and compatriot Ali Farag 3-0 (11-7, 11-8, 11-3) to clinch his maiden title

Tennis: Paolini wins brace of Italian Open titles with doubles triumph.

Jasmine Paolini became the first woman since Monica Seles in 1990 to win the Italian Open singles and doubles titles when she and Sara Errani beat Veronika Kudermetova and Elise Mertens 6-4, 7-5. Paolini became the first Italian woman to win the Rome singles title since Raffaella Reggi in 1985 after overcoming former US Open champion Coco Gauff in straight sets.

Italy's Massimo Stano breaks men's 35km race walk world record.

Italy's Massimo Stano has set a new world record in men's 35km race walk during the European Race Walking Team Championships in Podebrady, Czechia. He clocked 2:20:43 to win the gold medal at the World Athletics Race Walking Tour Gold meeting, breaking the previous record by a massive 57 seconds. Previously, the record belonged to Canadian Evan Dunfee who had clocked 2:21:40 in March.

Ronaldo tops Forbes' sports rich list for 3rd straight year.

Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo has once again claimed the top spot on Forbes' list of the world's highest-paid athletes – his third straight year and fifth overall. Since joining Saudi club Al-Nassr, the Portuguese star has raked in an estimated \$275 million, fuelled by both on-field wages and booming off-field earnings.

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, jumped to second place in the rankings with \$156 million. Boxer Tyson Fury claimed third place with \$146 million.