

International

Myanmar extends state of emergency by six months.

Myanmar's junta (military government) has extended the state of emergency by six months, again delaying fresh polls it has promised to hold as it battles opposition to its coup. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the February 2021 coup, which ended a 10-year experiment with democracy and sparked mass protests and a crackdown on dissent. The junta had been unable to hold fresh polls as planned, following an initial two year state of emergency due to the terrorist acts by its opponents.

Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas political Chief killed in Iran.

The political head of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, was assassinated in Tehran. Haniyeh was killed alongside one of his bodyguards at his residence in the Iranian capital while he was in the town to attend the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian's swearing-in ceremony. Haniyeh was the face of Hamas and was active in several peace negotiations.

Hamas, an acronym of its official name, Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya, is a Palestinian Sunni Islamist political and military movement governing parts of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip since 2007.

India elected as Vice Chair of Supply Chain Council under Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

India has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the Supply Chain Council — one of the three bodies set up by the 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) bloc.

The council was set up under the IPEF Supply Chain Resilience Agreement, which aims to help mitigate risks of economic disruptions from supply chain shocks, improve crisis coordination, and reduce the member countries' dependence on China. Supply Chain Resilience is a pillar out of four pillars under the IPEF framework.

IPEF was launched in May 2022 in Tokyo, Japan, comprising 14 countries.

National

UNESCO's 46th World Heritage Committee session in New Delhi concludes.

UNESCO's 46th World Heritage Committee Session to inscribe global landmarks on the World Heritage List concluded in New Delhi. This year, India not only hosted the annual committee but also chaired it. UNESCO inscribed 24 new landmark sites including 19 cultural, 4 natural, and 1 mixed property. Moidams from Assam became India's 43rd World Heritage Site, a significant achievement as it is the first cultural site from Assam to receive this recognition. Located in the Charaideo district, Moidams are sacred burial mounds of the Ahom dynasty, reflecting six centuries of cultural and architectural development. India is at the 6th spot globally, with 13 World Heritage Sites listed in the last decade.

Tarang Shakti: IAF's largest multilateral exercise to see the participation of over 150 aircraft.

India will host its first multinational air exercise, 'Tarang Shakti 2024', in two phases starting on the 6th of next month in Sular, Tamil Nadu. In this exercise, nearly 30 countries will participate, and out of 30, ten countries will join the exercise with their fighter aircraft. The exercise will showcase India's defence prowess and provide a platform for participating militaries to foster interoperability. The first phase is to be held in Sular, Tamil Nadu, from 6th to 14th August, and the second phase in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, from 29th August to 14th September.

Former Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan appointed UPSC chairperson.

Former Union Health Secretary, Preeti Sudan was appointed chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after Manoj Soni resigned from the post earlier this month. She would take the oath of office on August 1. Ms. Sudan is currently a member of the UPSC and will have a tenure till April 29, 2025, or till further orders.

Centre allocates ₹7,212 crore to Nirbhaya Fund for FY 2023-24.

The Central government has allocated a total amount of Rs 7,212 crore and 85 lakh rupees in the financial year 2023-24, under the Nirbhaya Fund. Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha, said the total amount released by the Ministries and Departments and utilized out of the Nirbhaya Fund since inception, is around five thousand crore rupees, which constitutes nearly 76 percent of the total allocation.

PM Narendra Modi praises Parimal Nathwani's Book 'Call of the Gir' on Asiatic lions & conservation efforts.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated the book 'Call of the Gir' written by Rajya Sabha Member Parimal Nathwani. The book is based on Gir's landscapes, which are known for the Asiatic lions. The book combines vivid photography and narratives to highlight the urgency of conservation efforts.

Business and Economy

Rural and co-operative banks in India hit by ransomware attack.

National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI) has said that several co-operative banks and regional rural banks (RRBs) were facing an interruption in retail payments, following a ransomware attack on associate technology service provider C-Edge Technologies Ltd which caters mostly to co-operative and regional rural banks. To prevent a larger impact on the payment ecosystem, NPCI has temporarily isolated C-Edge technologies from accessing NPCI's retail payment systems. NPCI is the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems in India and offers products and services such as RuPay, BHIM UPI, Bharat BillPay, and IMPS, among others.

Bank of Baroda Q1 net profit grows 9.5% to ₹4,458 crore

Bank of Baroda reported that its first-quarter standalone net profit grew 9.5% to ₹4,458

crore over the year-ago period, driven by lower credit costs. The bank's Net Interest Income (NII) grew 5% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹11,600 crore. The Net Interest Margin (NIM) stood at 3.18% in Q1FY25.

Core industries record 4% growth in June.

According to data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry, the eight core industries including sectors such as coal, cement, steel, and electricity posted a 4 percent growth in June this year compared to the same month of the previous year. The production of coal, electricity, natural gas, steel, fertilizer, and cement recorded positive growth in June 2024. The Ministry further highlighted that the final growth rate of the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for March 2024 has been revised to 6.3 percent. The cumulative growth rate of ICI from April to June 2024–25 now works out to 5.7 percent as compared to the corresponding period last year.

Sports

Paris 2024 Olympics: China's Pan Zhanle wins 100m freestyle gold with a world record.

China's Pan Zhanle has smashed his own 100 metres freestyle world record as he claimed a thrilling gold in the event at the Paris Olympics. Australia's silver medallist Kyle Chalmers finished 1.08 seconds behind Pan, with David Popovici taking bronze for Romania.

Former Indian cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad passes away in Vadodara.

Legendary Indian cricketer and former coach, and selector Anshuman Gaekwad passed away at the age of 71, after losing his long battle with cancer. He represented India in 40 Tests and 15 ODIs from 1975 to 1987. He was also a former India coach and national selector. Gaekwad has also played 205 first-class matches in a career spanning 22 years.