

## International

### Southeast Asia flood-landslide toll surges past 600.

The death toll from floods and landslides caused by torrential rains across three countries in Southeast Asia, climbed past 600. 435 were reported dead in Indonesia, 170 in Thailand, and three in Malaysia. Over 4 million people have been affected – nearly 3 million in southern Thailand and 1.1 million in western Indonesia.

Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand faced large-scale devastation after a rare tropical storm formed in the Malacca Strait, fuelling heavy rains and wind gusts for a week.

### Cyclone Ditwah: Sri Lanka's death toll climbs to 334.

Sri Lanka continues to grapple with one of its deadliest natural disasters in recent years as the death toll from Cyclone Ditwah's aftermath has risen to 334, with 370 people still missing. Widespread floods and landslides continue to cut off several districts.

### UNGA: 15 nations condemn China's human rights violations.

Fifteen countries have issued a joint statement at the 80th United Nations General Assembly's(UNGA) Third Committee, openly condemning China's grave and systematic human rights violations within its borders and beyond.

The countries include Australia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

The statement accused the Chinese authorities of running an extensive architecture of repression involving mass arbitrary detentions, forced labour, invasive surveillance, and restrictions on religious and cultural freedoms.

### Tokyo loses title of world's most populous city, UN.

According to the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs report titled "World Urbanization Prospects 2025," has awarded the title of the world's most populous

city to Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. Overtaking the Japanese capital, Tokyo, for the first time, Jakarta jumped from the 33rd place in the last ranking and is now home to an estimated 42 million people.

Second place goes to the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, with 37 million residents. New Delhi occupies fourth place with 30.2 million people.

## National

### India evacuates the last batch of stranded citizens from Sri Lanka, intensifies relief efforts.

The Indian government has evacuated its last batch of stranded nationals from Sri Lanka, as New Delhi intensified its assistance to Colombo's rescue operations for Cyclone Ditwah disaster victims.

Under Operation Sagar Bandhu, the last batch of 104 Indian passengers stranded at Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo reached Thiruvananthapuram, onboard an IAF aircraft.

### World AIDS Day observed on Dec. 1.

World AIDS Day is a global observance held on December 1 every year to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, remember those who have died from HIV-related illnesses, and support people living with HIV/AIDS. It was first marked in 1988 by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The theme for 2025 is 'Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response'.

### Indigenous stealth frigate 'Taragiri' delivered to the Indian Navy.

Indigenous advanced stealth frigate 'Taragiri', endowed with state-of-the-art combat capabilities, has been delivered to the Indian Navy. The fourth ship of Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) and the third one built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilding Ltd (MDL), 'Taragiri' (Yard 12653), was delivered to the Navy at MDL, Mumbai, marking a major milestone in achieving self-reliance in warship design and construction.

## MHA writes to Governors and L-Gs to consider renaming Raj Bhavans as Lok Bhavans.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has announced that Raj Bhavans in all states and Raj Niwases in Union Territories will be renamed as Lok Bhavans and Lok Niwases, respectively.

## Business and Economy

### NPCI subsidiary rolls out banking connect platform to simplify net banking.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) has introduced Banking Connect, an interoperable platform aimed at simplifying internet and mobile banking. The new system is designed to reduce the complexity of current net banking processes, which often require multiple integrations, varied customer credentials, and non-standard settlement flows. Merchant and payment aggregator onboarding typically takes 10 to 15 days, adding friction to digital payments.

Developed with ecosystem partners, Banking Connect aims to modernise the user journey for customers, banks and payment aggregators. The platform offers interoperable workflows, a uniform interface, mobile-first design, and support for biometric authentication. It also removes transaction caps and introduces standardised APIs to reduce delays, redirections and timeout errors.

### India to lead emerging market growth with 7% GDP rise in 2025: Moody's.

Moody's Ratings said that with a 7% GDP expansion in 2025 and 6.4% in the next year, India will lead growth among emerging markets and across the Asia Pacific region. Moody's also said that India's domestic growth drivers underpin its economic resilience amid global uncertainty.

### Amazon, Flipkart take aim at India's banks with new consumer loan offerings.

Amazon is preparing to offer loans to small businesses in India, while Walmart-owned

Flipkart is looking at buy-now, pay-later (BNPL) products as the e-commerce giants take on the country's banks with a push into financial products. Amazon acquired Bengaluru-based non-bank lender Axio earlier this year. Currently focused on BNPL and personal loans, Axio will re-embark on offering credit for small businesses and start offering cash management solutions.

Flipkart, in which Walmart has a stake of about 80%, registered its non-bank lending arm, Flipkart Finance, in March and is awaiting the Reserve Bank of India's final approval for its business plans.

### RBI imposes monetary penalty on HDFC Bank for lapses in KYC.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 91 lakh on HDFC Bank Limited for violating provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and for not complying with RBI directions on interest rates on advances, outsourcing of financial services and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. It has been fined because it used multiple benchmarks for the same loan category, allowed a subsidiary to carry out non-permitted business and outsourced KYC compliance checks to external agents.

### About 11 million microfinance borrowers are out of the formal credit system.

As per the data from Crif High Mark, about 11 million low-income borrowers have exited India's formal credit system as microfinance lenders, beset with asset-quality challenges, progressively slowed lending to customers at the base of the economic pyramid.

The number of unique microfinance borrowers stood at 75 million at the end of September, compared with 86 million a year ago.

### Decathlon to hire 2,500 people in India, invest €100 million by 2030.

Decathlon, the French sports gear and fitness equipment brand, said it would hire 2,500 new people, double revenues to ₹8,000 crore and invest €100 million in India by 2030.

Decathlon India CEO, Sankar Chatterjee, said that the French brand was capitalising on the growing sports markets in India.

## **RBI issues 244 consolidated Master Directions, repeals many to reduce compliance burden.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued 244 consolidated Master Directions (MD) after undertaking a review exercise pertaining to approximately 3500 directions, circulars, and guidelines issued over the years, to reduce compliance burden on the Regulated Entities (REs). According to the central bank, it was intended to ease compliance burdens for banks and other regulated entities.

The comprehensive exercise involved the consolidation of more than 9000 existing circulars/ guidelines administered by the Department of Regulation into 238 function-wise Master Directions (MDs), specific to each category of regulated entity.

Instructions issued by NABARD to Regional Rural Banks, State Co-operative Banks and Central Cooperative Banks were also consolidated in consultation with NABARD

## **Sports**

### **India Finish runner-up at Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia.**

The Indian men's hockey team has finished as the runner-up at the prestigious Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia. The Indian team went down 0-1 to Belgium in the title clash. Thibreau Stockbroekx has scored the only goal in the match to help world No. 3 Belgium win their maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Cup trophy.

### **India beat South Africa by 17 runs in first ODI in Ranchi.**

India defeated South Africa by 17 runs in the opening match of the three-match ODI series in

Ranchi. Chasing a target of 350 runs in 50 overs, South Africa were all out for 332 with 4 balls to spare. Earlier, South Africa won the toss and elected to bowl first. Riding on Virat Kohli's 135 off 120 balls, India scored 349 for 8 in the stipulated 50 overs. With this knock, Kohli registered his 52nd One-Day International hundred and set a new world record for the most centuries in a single format in international cricket.

Meanwhile, Rohit Sharma broke Shahid Afridi's record (351) to smash the most sixes in one-day internationals. He got this landmark in his 277th match and in 100 innings quicker than Afridi.

### **DP World signs Abhishek Sharma as new global brand ambassador.**

DP World, a leading provider of global smart logistics solutions, has signed Indian batting sensation Abhishek Sharma as a new brand ambassador. He joins cricketing icon Sachin Tendulkar and global golf star Tommy Fleetwood as the third ambassador in DP World's evolving sports portfolio.

### **Syed Modi International 2025: Treesa-Gayatri retain women's doubles title,**

India's top seeds Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have successfully defended their women's doubles title at the Syed Modi International 2025 badminton tournament.

Ranked 14th in the world, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand beat Japanese eighth seeds Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe 17-21, 21-13, 21-15 in the final

Meanwhile, Kidambi Srikanth lost out to the young Jason Gunawan in a tense men's singles final. He went down 16-21, 21-8, 20-22.