

International

Israel and Syria agree to a ceasefire.

Israel and Syria have agreed to a U.S.-brokered ceasefire following days of Israeli airstrikes on government targets in Damascus and southern Syria.

The deal, announced by U.S. Ambassador Tom Barrack and supported by regional partners Turkey and Jordan.

As part of the agreement, Syria's interim president Ahmed al-Sharaa has ordered a broader truce between Druze and Bedouin factions in Suwayda, and limited Syrian troop access to the affected region has been authorized.

U.S. formally rejects WHO pandemic amendments.

The United States officially rejected the 2024 amendments to the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (IHR), which aimed to improve global pandemic preparedness with a new "pandemic emergency" category.

U.S. officials from the State Department and Health and Human Services criticized these revisions as legally vague, politically driven, and overly empowering for the WHO, especially regarding access to vaccines, treatments, and data.

Obituary

Prince Al-Waleed, passes away.

Prince Al-Waleed, widely known as Saudi Arabia's 'Sleeping Prince,' passed away after spending nearly two decades in a coma.

Prince Al-Waleed was the eldest son of Prince Khaled bin Talal, a prominent member of the Saudi royal family.

In 2005, at the age of 15, he was involved in a severe car accident in London that left him with a traumatic brain injury and a serious hemorrhage.

Important Days

International Chess Day: 20th July.

International Chess Day is being observed every year on the 20th of July, globally.

The global chess community unites to celebrate this day, commemorating the founding of FIDE in 1924.

This year, FIDE launched the 'Year of Social Chess', an initiative dedicated to using the game as a tool for inclusion, education, empowerment, and mental well-being.

The theme for International Chess Day 2025 is "Every Move Counts, which reminds us that, on the board and in life, every decision shapes our journey.

International Moon Day: 20th July.

International Moon Day is observed every year on July 20 to commemorate the anniversary of the first human landing on the Moon by Apollo 11 in 1969.

The United Nations officially declared this day in 2021 to promote international cooperation in space exploration and raise awareness about sustainable lunar activities.

National

India developing Multi-Stage Malaria Vaccine Candidate named AdFalciVax.

India is developing a Multi-Stage Malaria Vaccine Candidate named AdFalciVax. The vaccine aims to provide protection against human infection while also reducing vector-borne community transmission of the parasite.

AdFalciVax is the first indigenous recombinant chimeric malaria vaccine specifically designed to target two critical stages of Plasmodium falciparum, the parasite responsible for the most lethal form of malaria.

The Indian Council of Medical Research – ICMR, in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology-National Institute of Immunology (DBT-NII), is currently developing this malaria vaccine candidate.

Piyush Goyal inaugurates Cyber Skill Centre in Mumbai.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the state-of-the-art DSCI Advanced Cyber Skill Centre in Kandivali, Mumbai. Established by the Data Security Council of India with support from the Kyndryl Foundation under the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the centre aims to train around 1,000 youth annually with emphasis on women and students from tier-II and III cities in cybersecurity skills such as ethical hacking, threat hunting, and incident response.

India's leadership in saving global food safety applauded at 88th Codex Executive Committee Meet in Rome.

India's role in global food standard development was appreciated in the 88th session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC 88). The session was held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome.

The Committee reviewed the progress of the India-led Millets Group Standard work. It appreciated the efforts of the CCFFV and India in finalizing these standards and endorsed them for further approval at the 48th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48), which is scheduled for November 2025.

India will also serve as co-chair in new work proposals to develop standards for fresh turmeric and broccoli.

1st-ever mango festival celebrated in Nagaland.

In a boost to local agriculture and entrepreneurship, the first-ever Mango Festival was celebrated at Longmatra in the Kiphire district of Nagaland.

The Festival was initiated by the District Administration and the Department of Horticulture, Kiphire.

This festival is confined to the Longmatra area, covering 13 villages, where mangoes are grown very well.

India shines at IMO 2025 with 3 Golds, ranks 7th globally with record score.

India secured three gold, two silver, and one bronze medal at the 66th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2025, held in Sunshine Coast, Australia.

Kanav Talwar and Arav Gupta from Delhi, and Aditya Mangudi from Maharashtra won gold, Abel George Mathew from Karnataka, and Adish Jain from Delhi bagged silver medals, while Delhi's Archit Manas secured the bronze.

This is only the second time since 1998 that India has won three gold medals at the IMO. In 2024, India had created history by winning four golds. Since its debut in 1989, India has won 23 gold medals, with 12 of them secured between 2019 and 2025, including nine in the last three years. India ranked 7th globally this year, scoring a record 193 out of 252 points-its highest so far.

Business and Economy

HDFC Bank reports 12% rise in Q1 net profit.

HDFC Bank reported a 12% year-on-year increase in net profit for the first quarter of FY26, reaching ₹18,155 crore.

The rise was driven by higher interest income and gains from the HDB Financial Services IPO. Net interest income grew to ₹31,440 crore, while the bank also announced a 1:1 bonus issue and a ₹5 special interim dividend.

ICICI Bank Q1 net profit rises 16% to ₹12,768 crore.

ICICI Bank recorded a strong 15.5% year-on-year increase in standalone net profit, reaching ₹12,768 crore in Q1 FY26, up from ₹11,059 crore during the same period last year.

The bank's net interest income climbed 10.6% to ₹21,635 crore, while core operating profit surged 13.6% to ₹17,505 crore.

Sports

India Champions, Pakistan Champions called off at World Championship of Legends 2025.

The Cricket match between India Champions and Pakistan Champions has been called off at the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025. The match was canceled after organizers faced major backlash amid India's ongoing tensions with Pakistan due to cross-border terrorism. The match between India and Pakistan was earlier scheduled at Edgbaston in Birmingham.

India storms into Quarterfinals of Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championships.

India secured a spot in the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championships with a dominant 110-83

victory over the United Arab Emirates in their Group D clash at Solo in Indonesia.

The tournament is being played under a relay scoring format, where teams race to 110 points across 10 matches.

Indian women wrestlers shine at Polyak Imre Varga Janos Memorial in Budapest

In Wrestling, Indian women continue to assert their dominance at the ongoing 4th Ranking Series – 'Polyak Imre Varga Janos Memorial' underway in Budapest, Hungary.

Indian women bagged a silver and a bronze medal.

Priya Malik won a silver medal in the 76 kg weight category.

Asian Champion Manisha added a bronze medal to the tally.