

International

Desi Oon wins Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film at International Animation Festival.

Desi Oon, an animation film by filmmaker Suresh Eriyat, has won the Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025 in France. The Film was recently crowned Best Film at the World Audio, Video and Entertainment Summit -WAVES 2025 which was held in Mumbai.

India third-fastest growing nation globally in power generation: IEA report.

According to the latest report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), India has emerged as the third-fastest growing nation in power generation capacity globally over the past five years, following China and the US. Factors such as the expansion of commercial and residential spaces, increased ownership of air conditioners and other household appliances, and growing demand from industries have contributed to this growth.

The report mentioned that a major driver of this expansion has been the strong push towards renewable energy.

World Refugee Day observed globally on June 20.

World Refugee Day is being observed on June 20 globally. This international day is designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. The theme for this year is "Solidarity with Refugees", which urges people to move beyond words and take meaningful steps to support those forced to flee.

Qatar Airways named World's best airline by Skytrax.

Qatar Airways has retained its 2025 Skytrax 'World's Best Airline' title for a record-breaking 9th time. Qatar Airways was also named the Best Airline in the Middle East, the Best Business Class in the World, and the Best Business Class Airline Lounge.

Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific secured the second and third positions, respectively. Dubai's Emirates came in the 4th place, followed by ANA All Nippon Airways, Turkish Airlines, Korean Air, Air France, and Japan Airlines.

National

India-Croatia sign 4 MoUs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has concluded his historic and first-ever official visit to Croatia. The visit marked a significant elevation in India-Croatia ties and set the stage for future strategic collaborations. Both nations signed four Memoranda of Understanding. First MoU has been inked for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. The second MoU has been signed for the Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2026-2030. The third one is the Programme of Cooperation in the field of Science & Technology between the concerned Ministries of the two countries for the period 2025-2029. The fourth MoU is regarding the establishment of the Hindi Chair at the University of Zagreb.

QS Rankings 2026 features record 54 Indian institutes.

A record 54 Indian Institutes have been featured in the QS World University Rankings, with the Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Delhi emerging as the country's top-ranked Institute. IIT Delhi's global ranking has seen a significant jump from the earlier 150th position to the current 123rd rank in the latest edition of the rankings of higher education institutions across the world. This is also the highest QS World University Ranking achieved so far by the Institute.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retains its top position for the 14th consecutive year. It is followed by Imperial College London in the second place and Stanford University in the third.

Probe panel proposes to initiate Justice Varma's removal.

The three-member panel formed to investigate the allegations of cash discovery at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma, has concluded that there was sufficient substance to initiate proceedings for the removal of the former Delhi High Court judge. As per the report, cash was found at the storeroom of Justice Varma's residence in New Delhi and two of his domestic staff were instrumental in removing the burnt cash from the storeroom.

Chandigarh claim top spot in school education index.

Chandigarh has claimed the top position in the school education index, revealed Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2023-2024 by the Union Ministry of Education. Chandigarh scored 703 points, achieving Prachesta-1 — the highest grade achieved in the latest PGI. While Meghalaya ranked lowest at the tenth and lowest category. Meghalaya with 417.9 points finds itself in the Akanshi-3 category.

Following Chandigarh's top position, Punjab (631.1) and Delhi (623.7) were the next highest performers, both placed in the Prachesta-3 band (score range: 581-640). Other states and UTs in this band included Kerala, Gujarat, Odisha, Haryana, Goa, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan

Tripartite MoU signed to promote inclusive education for persons with disabilities.

A tripartite MoU was signed in New Delhi between the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The MoU aims to promote inclusive education for persons with disabilities. The primary objective of this collaboration is to establish a robust framework for promoting inclusive education for persons with disabilities, in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Under this agreement, NIOS will establish Special Accredited Institutions for the Education of the Disabled learners, recognizing special schools run by NGOs funded under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme.

MoPR signs MoU with Bhashini

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and Bhashini, the National Language Translation Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi. The partnership aims to enable real-time multilingual access to the eGramSwaraj platform, thereby deepening inclusivity and improving ease of access for rural stakeholders across the country. The MoU aims to promote the use of AI-enabled public digital

infrastructure to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions and strengthen participatory democracy at the grassroots level.

Noted environmentalist 'Aranya Rishi' Maruti Chitampalli passes away

Noted environmentalist, wildlife expert, and Padmashree awardee Maruti Chitampalli, fondly known as 'Aranya Rishi', passed away at the age of 93 in Solapur, Maharashtra. He dedicated his life to forests, wildlife, and conservation literature. Chitampalli received the Padma Shri from the President on April 30 this year. He served in the Forest Department for 36 years, during which he travelled over 5 lakh kilometres across India for research and documentation.

His diaries laid the foundation for his scientific works like 'Pakshikosha' (Encyclopedia of Birds), 'Pashukosha' (Encyclopedia of Animals), and 'Matsyakosha' (Encyclopedia of Fish).

Business and Economy

US Fed keeps interest rates unchanged for 4th time.

The US Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) has kept interest rates unchanged for the fourth consecutive time at a 4.25 per cent to 4.5 per cent range in its latest meeting. The American central bank has maintained the same level since December 2024 amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and trade-related volatility.

It projected the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to advance 1.4 per cent this year, a drop from the earlier 1.7 per cent forecast in March. The core PCE inflation is projected to reach 3 per cent by the end of the year, while the unemployment rate is expected to rise from its current level of 4.2 per cent to 4.5 per cent this year.

SEBI approves major market reforms.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced a set of important reforms aimed at making the Indian financial markets more efficient, inclusive, and investor-friendly. According to new measures, startup founders will now be allowed to keep their employee stock ownership plans (Esops) even

after their companies go public. SEBI has made it mandatory to have a one-year gap between issuing Esops and filing for an IPO.

SEBI has approved a new framework for the voluntary delisting of public sector undertakings (PSUs). PSUs can now be removed from the stock market more easily if shareholders approve.

To attract more long-term foreign capital, the SEBI has also simplified the rules for foreign investors who invest exclusively in government bonds.

SEBI relaxing merchant banking norms.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has said that merchant bankers (MB) can now engage in unregulated activities such as advisory and consultancies without needing a separate legal entity. The amendments made by SEBI will enhance investor protection and ensure that only credible and well-governed entities are allowed to act as intermediaries.

Sports

Divya Deshmukh defeats world number one Hou Yifan

India's Divya Deshmukh has defeated World number one Hou Yifan of China in a big match at the World Team Blitz Chess Championship held in London. Divya, who is currently the World number one, in the junior category,

ended the tournament with an impressive three medals.

The match took place in the second part of the semifinal round, where Divya represented the Hexamind Chess Club and Yifan played for the WR Chess Team.

Reddit appoints Sachin Tendulkar as brand ambassador

Social media platform Reddit, has announced Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar as its brand ambassador. Through his official Reddit profile, batting icon Tendulkar will share personal reflections, match insights, and exclusive content.

NBA: Los Angeles Lakers sold for \$10 billion.

The Los Angeles Lakers has been sold to TWG Global CEO Mark Walter for a record-breaking \$10 billion, ending the Buss family's 46-year control of the NBA giant. The \$10 billion price tag makes the Lakers the most valuable sports team in U.S. history, surpassing recent record sales like the Boston Celtics (\$6.1B) and Washington Commanders (\$6.05B). Mr Walter also has a controlling stake in the Los Angeles Dodgers, the professional US baseball team that won the World Series last year.