

International

Ceasefire collapses as Israel resumes airstrikes on Gaza.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which had held for nearly two months, came to an abrupt end as Israeli airstrikes targeted Gaza, resulting in over 400 reported casualties. Both sides have accused each other of violating the ceasefire agreement that had been in effect since January.

The collapse of the ceasefire stems from irreconcilable differences between the two parties.

Faya site reveals humanity's 210,000-year desert adaptation.

Sharjah's Faya Palaeolandscape, recently nominated for UNESCO World Heritage status, presents compelling evidence of human resilience and adaptation spanning over 210,000 years, while also serving as a crucial link in ancient trade networks connecting Arabia with India.

The 29,085-hectare site, located approximately 55 kilometers from both the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, features the distinctive Faya Range, a 20-kilometer stretch of limestone formations. This natural ridge acts as a barrier between the vast Rub' al-Khali sand desert and the Dhaid-Madam Plain, forming what UNESCO describes as "an outstanding example of a Stone Age desert landscape."

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak wins 2025 Holberg Prize

Gayatri Spivak, a celebrated literary critic and postcolonial scholar, won the 2025 Holberg Prize, considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in the field of humanities, social sciences, law or theology research. The prize carries a \$5,40,000 cash prize. She won the prize for her influential work in literary theory and philosophy.

NTT DATA to commission MIST submarine cable by June 2025.

NTT Data has announced that its Malaysia, India, Singapore Transit (MIST) submarine cable system would be commissioned by June

2025, providing direct connectivity to and from India. The 8,100-kilometre cable, that can carry over 200 terabits per second (Tbps), is one of the largest cables in Asia and will connect Malaysia, India, Singapore and Thailand. MIST was connected to NTT Data's Mumbai landing station in February 2023 and its Chennai landing station in May 2023.

National

Indore to launch India's first PPP-based green waste processing plant.

Indore, which has been ranked India's cleanest city for seven consecutive years, is set to take a major step towards environmental sustainability with the launch of the country's first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model-based green waste processing plant under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).

This groundbreaking initiative aims to revolutionise the city's waste management system by converting green waste into valuable resources.

Built on 55,000 square feet of land in Bicholi Hapsi, the plant will recycle wood and branches to produce wood pellets, serving as an alternative to coal and promoting energy conservation.

Participation of elephants in festivals is part of our culture: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India remarked that the use of elephants in festivals is part of the country's culture. A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma was hearing a petition filed by the NGO Vishwa Gaja Seva Samithi, which challenged a judgment of the Kerala High Court on January 13 in a suo motu case on the treatment of captive elephants in religious festivals, especially in the temples of Kerala.

Pravaig Dynamics launches world's first electric TATV.

Bengaluru-based EV startup Pravaig Dynamics has launched the world's first operational electric Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle (E-TATV), named "VEER", which has undergone military trials and won the iDEX Award, signifying a

step towards India's strategic autonomy in defence technology.

E-TATV is a cutting-edge, highly stealthy vehicle designed for forward patrolling, reconnaissance, and ISR operations.

'Blue Cross of India' celebrates 60 Years with Release of "Memories and Milestones"

The Blue Cross of India marked a significant milestone 15th March, 2025 with the release of "Memories and Milestones," a book documenting its 60-year journey. The book, authored by historian V. Sriram and Lashman, was released by Justice P.N. Prakash, Former Judge of Madras High Court.

The Blue Cross of India has been at the forefront of animal welfare in the country, pioneering initiatives like the Animal Birth Control (ABC) program, which was the first of its kind in the world.

Former Union Minister Debendra Pradhan dies at 84.

Veteran BJP leader Debendra Pradhan, father of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, passed away at 84 due to age-related ailments. A former minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and three-time president of BJP in Odisha.

Vigyan Dhara: A catalyst for India's scientific progress.

The Government of India has significantly increased the allocation for the Vigyan Dhara scheme, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing the country's scientific research, innovation, and technological development ecosystem. The budget has witnessed a substantial rise from Rs. 330.75 crore in 2024-25 to Rs. 1425.00 crore in 2025-26. The proposed outlay for scheme is Rs.10,579.84 crore for the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26, aligning with the 15th Finance Commission.

The Vigyan Dhara scheme came into force with effect from 16.01.2025

Business and Economy

OECD lowers India's growth forecast for FY26 to 6.4%.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has revised India's economic growth forecast for FY26 to 6.4% from 6.9% due to rising global uncertainty. Despite a global slowdown, India's downturn is expected to be mild, with strong performance noted in late 2024. While many countries are expected to experience a decline in economic growth in 2026 compared to the previous year, India stands out as an exception.

SEBI, Digilocker partnership to address unclaimed fin assets

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has partnered with DigiLocker to address the issue of unclaimed financial assets. This initiative enables investors to store and access information on their demat and mutual fund holdings through DigiLocker, a key Digital Public Infrastructure, benefiting investors and their families. Through this initiative, SEBI and DigiLocker are committed to enhancing investor protection.

The key highlights of the initiative are access to securities holdings, a nomination facility for seamless access, automated notification to nominees and the role of KYC registration agencies (KRAs).

RBI asks UCBs to be mindful of their responsibilities for depositors

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra had urged Chairmen, MDs and CEOs of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) to be mindful of their responsibilities, particularly in view of the trust reposed on them by the depositors.

He stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of customer service to build and retain trust. UCBs were also advised to ensure that they remain operationally resilient including against IT and cyber-related risks.

Moody's places IndusInd Bank's Baseline Credit Assessment under review for downgrade.

Global rating agency Moody's has placed IndusInd Bank's baseline credit assessment (BCA) under review for a possible downgrade. The rating review comes days after IndusInd Bank disclosed a ₹2,100 crore discrepancy in accounting with an estimated impact of 2.35% of the bank's net worth.

Sports

Kabaddi's global body declares World Cup in UK 'unauthorised'.

The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) declared that the World Cup being held in London is not an "authorised" event and asked the sport's Indian apex body to act against the team that had gone to take part in the tournament.

Kabaddi World Cup 2025 is being held in the West Midlands from March 17 to 23. The tournament is being hosted by the England Kabaddi Association and the British Kabaddi League (BKL) under the aegis of World Kabaddi Federation, a parallel international governing body of the sport.

'Leo—The Untold Story,' on Chennai Super Kings launched

A new book on Chennai Super Kings, 'Leo—The Untold Story,' written by senior advocate and former TNCA Vice President P.S. Raman, was officially launched in the presence of former CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni. Former India cricketer C. D. Gopinath, a member of India's first Test-winning team, unveiled the book and musician Anirudh Ravichander received the first copy.

Matt Richtman becomes first American man to win Los Angeles Marathon in 31 years.

Matt Richtman won the 40th annual Los Angeles Marathon, becoming the first American man to take the title in 31 years. He set a personal-best time of 2 hours, 7 minutes, 56 seconds over the course. Athanas Kioko of Kenya was second in 2:10.55. Moses Kurgat of Kenya took third in 2:13.13.