

International

India, EAEU to begin free trade agreement negotiations.

India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Russia, have signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to launch negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The proposed FTA will boost exports, support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and diversify market access.

The trade turnover between India-EAEU reached 69 billion dollars in 2024, registering a 7 per cent increase over 2023.

France, ICC slam US sanctions on court officials investigating war crimes.

The US has imposed sanctions on several International Criminal Court (ICC) officials, including French Judge Nicolas Guillou, for their role in pursuing war crimes charges against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Meanwhile, France strongly criticised the move, calling it a blow to judicial independence. The ICC also condemned the sanctions, saying they threaten the court's impartiality.

The ICC recently issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for alleged war crimes during Israel's military operations in Gaza.

National

Constitution 130th Amendment Bill 2025 sent to the Joint Committee.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was introduced by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, was sent to a Joint Committee. The Bill aims to amend three articles in the Constitution of India -- Articles 75, 164, and 239AA. It states that any minister, Chief Minister, or the Prime Minister, who is arrested and is in custody for over 30 days after being accused of an offence punishable by a jail term of five years or more, shall be removed from office. Such a removal from office can be done purely based on an allegation, and a conviction in the case is not required. The law also states that such a removal from the office does not prevent the individual from being reappointed to the high office after his release.

The Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill gives the liberty to the leaseholder to add other minerals to the existing lease.

The Parliament has passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025, with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill. The bill will further amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The Bill provides that lease holders may apply to the state government for adding other minerals to an existing lease. For inclusion of critical and strategic minerals and other specified minerals, no additional amount needs to be paid. These include minerals such as lithium, graphite, nickel, cobalt, gold, and silver.

The Act establishes the National Mineral Exploration Trust to fund mineral exploration in the country.

India successfully test-fires Agni V.

India has successfully test-fired Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni 5', from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters. It added that the launch was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command. The missile test-fired is a variant of the Agni-5 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that can reach around 7,000 kilometres.

The missile is developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Parliament passes bill to establish IIM at Guwahati in Assam.

The Parliament has passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Bill will further amend the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017. The bill seeks to establish an Indian Institute of Management at Guwahati in Assam, which is an important centre of the North-Eastern region of the country.

Sadbhavana Diwas 2025 observed on August 20.

Sadbhavana Diwas, or the "Day of Harmony," is observed every year on August 20 to mark the

birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, who became India's youngest Prime Minister. The day reflects his vision of promoting peace, harmony, national integration, and goodwill among all people, regardless of caste, creed, or religion.

LS passes Bill encouraging e-sports, online social gaming, and prohibits harmful online money gaming.

The Lok Sabha passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025. The bill encourages e-sports and online social games while prohibiting harmful online money gaming services. It has the provision for the appointment of an Online Gaming Authority for coordinated policy support, strategic development, and regulatory oversight of the sector. The bill is intended to protect individuals, especially youth and vulnerable populations, from the adverse impact of such games.

Business and Economy

HDFC Bank invests in BharatGPT creator CoRover.

HDFC Bank has invested in conversational artificial intelligence firm CoRover, the developer of BharatGPT, a sovereign and enterprise-grade large language model.

CoRover has a user base of 1 billion and caters to over 25,000 enterprises and developers, developing conversational AI agents, AI Assistants (VideoBot, VoiceBot, ChatBot). Its solutions are powered by BharatGPT, a multilingual, multimodal, and domain-adaptable LLM built entirely in India, for India.

PNB becomes the first Public Sector Bank to migrate to '.bank.in' domain

Punjab National Bank has become the first Public Sector Bank in India to migrate its corporate website to the secure '.bank.in' domain, reaffirming its commitment to safe and secure digital banking for its customers. The bank has successfully migrated its corporate website to '.bank.in' domain (<https://pnb.bank.in>) in line with RBI circular on "Migration to '.bank.in' Domain" dated April 22, 2025, and under the guidance of Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), which serves as the exclusive registrar for this domain.

Exim Bank signs \$40 million credit line deal with Africa's ECOWAS Bank.

The Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) and the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) have signed a commercial credit line agreement of \$40 million. This agreement is aimed at creating new opportunities for Indian businesses to contribute to Africa's growth story and strengthen bilateral economic ties.

EBID is a regional Development Finance Institution, owned by the 15 ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) member States.

Suzlon joins RE100, commits to 100% renewables by 2030.

Suzlon Group has become the first Indian energy company to join the RE100 Initiative, a global movement led by Climate Group in partnership with CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project). The company has pledged to use 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 across all 15 of its manufacturing facilities.

This step is part of Suzlon's decarbonisation roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality for Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2035 and net zero for Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions by 2040.

Indian Oil, Air India ink MoU on sustainable aviation fuel supply.

State-owned oil refiner and marketer Indian Oil Corporation has entered into an MoU with Air India for the supply of sustainable aviation fuel, SAF. The MoU outlines a shared commitment to promote the adoption of low-carbon fuels in aviation, support global decarbonisation goals, and contribute to the transition toward more sustainable air transport operations.

Foreign liabilities of Indian MFs rose 20% in FY25, shows RBI study.

According to a study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the foreign liabilities of Indian mutual fund schemes increased 19.9% to Rs. 2.6 lakh crore in market value as more MF units were sold abroad in FY25.

Indian MFs had sold units which were worth Rs. 2.1 lakh crore in market value at the end of FY24. The United Arab Emirates had the largest share of investors in Indian MFs, amounting to 1/5th of the total market value,

which is about Rs. 52,549 crore. Investors from the U.S. and U.K. together accounted for another 20%, totalling a market value of about Rs. 10,900 crores. Investment from Australia and Canada grew the fastest at a rate of more than 40% in the past year.

Private banks told to step up Jan Suraksha, credit outreach play.

The Central government has directed private sector banks to step up participation in flagship schemes such as Jan Suraksha and to play a more active role in State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBCs) for settling issues concerning micro and small enterprises and other credit outreach programmes. Concerns have been raised about the insufficient engagement of some private banks, hindering the effectiveness of these programs.

The government is emphasizing the need for faster claim settlements and improved banking infrastructure in rural areas and the Northeast.

Growth in core sector activity slows to 2% in July.

Growth in industrial activity in India's eight core industries slowed to 2% in July 2025, dragged down by contractions in the fossil fuel categories. Steel and cement sectors, however, witnessed double-digit growth.

The Index of Eight Core Industries, released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, shows that activity in July 2025 is significantly slower than the 6.3% growth seen in July last year. The Index grew by 2.2% in June 2025.

AU Small Finance Bank unveils UPI for NRE, NRO account holders.

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), which recently got approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to turn into a universal bank, has launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services for its Non-Resident External (NRE) and Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) account holders with international mobile numbers.

This rollout follows the National Payments Corporation of India's directive allowing UPI transactions through international mobile numbers.

Sports

Asian Shooting Championship: Anantjeet Singh Naruka wins gold.

India's Anantjeet Singh Naruka has won a gold medal in the Men's Skeet event at the Asian Shooting Championships at Shymkent in Kazakhstan. Naruka defeated Kuwait's Mansour Al Rashidi in the final.

The Indian duo of Saurabh Chaudhary and Suruchi Inder Singh bagged the bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event. Saurabh and Suruchi defeated the Chinese Taipei pair of Liu Heng-Yu and Hsieh Hsiang-Chen 17-9.

U20 World Wrestling: Sumit Malik Wins Silver.

At the ongoing Under 20 World Wrestling Championships, wrestler Sumit Malik settled for a silver medal after a 5-8 loss to Russia's Magomed Odzamiro in the men's 57 kg category, in Samokov, Bulgaria.