

International

India strengthens ties with Myanmar through three Quick Impact Projects.

India has handed over three Quick Impact Projects to Myanmar in the Mandalay Region to support socio-economic development.

The initiatives include the installation of an Indian-made weaving loom at Amarapura, a new building for a girls' training school, and a clean-energy gasification project.

Implemented under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation framework, the projects highlight India's commitment to capacity-building and sustainable development in Myanmar.

IMF extends \$206 million emergency support to Sri Lanka post cyclone Ditwah.

The International Monetary Fund has approved emergency assistance of 206 million dollars for Sri Lanka under its Rapid Finance Instrument following the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah. The cyclone killed over 643 people and triggered severe humanitarian, fiscal, and balance-of-payments pressures, even as the country's 2.9-billion-dollar IMF bailout review was nearing completion.

Important Days

World Meditation Day: 21st December.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the 21st of December as the 'World Meditation Day'.

The date was chosen to coincide with the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, which symbolizes introspection and inner calm.

Indian spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar led a guided meditation session during the "Meditation for Global Peace and Harmony" event at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The observance was organised by India, Andorra, Mexico, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, which sponsored the General Assembly resolution last year designating the Winter Solstice, December 21, as World Meditation Day.

Science and Technology

NASA temporarily loses communication with MAVEN Mars Orbiter.

The US space agency NASA has lost contact with its Mars probe MAVEN, with no regular data received for nearly two weeks.

Launched in 2014 to study the Martian atmosphere, the orbiter may have rotated out of proper alignment.

NASA continues Mars exploration through missions like Mars Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, and the Curiosity and Perseverance rovers.

National

RPF tops men's brass band at 26th All India Police Band Meet.

The Railway Protection Force won the first place in the men's brass band category at the 26th All India Police Band Competition held in Secunderabad. Assam Rifles and Border Security Force secured second place. The Central Industrial Security Force won the women's title.

G. Kishan Reddy presented awards. Twenty-four bands participated, showcasing India's police band heritage.

MeitY warns public against GhostPairing WhatsApp account hijacking scam.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued an advisory on a cyber campaign named GhostPairing that targets WhatsApp users.

Hackers exploit WhatsApp's device-linking feature using pairing codes, often through deceptive messages from known contacts.

The ministry urged users to avoid suspicious links, never share phone numbers on unknown sites, and regularly review linked devices to prevent account takeover.

PM Modi unveils ₹3,200 crore National Highway projects in West Bengal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for National Highway projects worth about ₹3,200 crore in West Bengal.

The projects include four-laning key stretches of National Highway 34 in Nadia and North 24 Parganas, improving connectivity between Kolkata and Siliguri, reducing travel time, and boosting regional economic growth and tourism.

Business and Economy

RBI board clears risk-based deposit insurance model for Banks.

The Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India has approved a risk-based deposit insurance framework for banks at its 620th meeting held in Hyderabad.

The decision follows RBI's October proposal to introduce risk-linked premiums. The Board also reviewed domestic and global economic conditions and discussed the draft Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, 2024–25.

Electronics exports surge to \$31 billion in FY26's first eight months.

Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said India's electronics exports touched 31 billion dollars in the first eight months of the current financial year.

He noted that electronics has emerged as the fastest-growing segment among India's top 30 export items in FY26, registering a 38 per cent year-on-year growth, boosting employment, skill development, and technology transfer.

Sports

Indian Men's Doubles Pair clinch bronze at BWF World Tour Finals 2025.

India's men's doubles duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty secured a bronze medal at the BWF World Tour Finals 2025 in Hangzhou, China.

They lost a hard-fought semi-final to China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang. This only marks India's second medal at the event, after PV Sindhu won gold in women's singles in 2018.