

International

Nigeria admitted as partner country of BRICS bloc.

Nigeria has been admitted as a "partner country" of the BRICS bloc of developing economies, according to Brazil, the group's chair. Nigeria becomes the ninth BRICS partner country, joining Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

In 2023, BRICS expanded with Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia has been invited to join, but has not yet done so. In 2025, Indonesia has joined as a full member.

BRICS was formed by Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009, with South Africa added in 2010, as a counterweight to the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised nations.

National

Uttarakhand Cabinet approves Uniform Civil Code manual.

The Uttarakhand State Cabinet has given its nod to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) manual, paving the way for its implementation in the state. The Uniform Civil Code seeks to ensure that all citizens are governed by a common set of laws in matters of personal relationships, promoting equality and justice. Once it's rolled out, Uttarakhand will become the first state to implement the UCC.

Accused Sanjay Roy sentenced to life imprisonment in RG Kar rape & murder case.

A sessions court in Kolkata's Sealdah has sentenced prime accused Sanjoy Roy to life imprisonment in the RG Kar rape and murder case. Sessions Judge Anirban Das also held that the state government will have to pay the victim's family compensation of 17 lakh rupees. Sanjoy Roy was declared guilty in the case by the court on Saturday last week. The body of the PGT doctor was recovered from a seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College on 9th August last year.

Indian Armed Forces Successfully concludes Exercise Devil Strike

The Indian armed forces successfully carried out Exercise Devil Strike, a high-intensity joint

airborne military drill, near Siliguri Corridor in North Bengal from January 16-19. The collaborative endeavour between the Indian Army's elite airborne troops and the Indian Air Force showcased seamless integration, operational excellence, and readiness to operate in the most challenging environments.

Bharat Mobility Global Expo witness launch of 56 new products.

The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 has witnessed the launch of 56 new products from 22 different brands at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Commerce and Industry Ministry said various advanced vehicles, cutting-edge mobility solutions, and the latest components were showcased ranging from superbikes, cars, buses and ambulances. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched this global expo.

Business and Economy

India at forefront of age defined by tech evolution: WEF.

India is emerging as a global leader in technological innovation and economic growth, recognized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for its transformative journey as a startup and digital innovation hub. The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) India, launched in 2018 by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, exemplifies the country's commitment to responsible and inclusive technological development.

The WEF's partnership with India spans over four decades. It has fostered collaborative efforts across government, business, academia, and civil society. These partnerships have driven significant initiatives, including Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven agricultural programs, healthcare solutions, and sustainable urban frameworks, resulting in tangible improvements for millions of citizens.

FIU-IND & NHB sign MoU for enhanced coordination and information exchange.

Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sharing of intelligence and information to check money laundering. The MoU was signed by Shri

Vivek Aggarwal, Director, FIU-IND and Shri Sanjay Shukla, Managing Director, NHB.

As per the agreement, FIU-IND and Irdai will cooperate in the areas of mutual interest, including sharing of relevant intelligence and information, available in their respective databases.

24 companies selected under PLI scheme for White Goods.

24 companies have been selected under the Production Linked Incentive, PLI Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights) with a committed investment of three thousand 516 crore rupees. Commerce and Industry Ministry said these companies include ten manufacturers of components of Air Conditioners and eight manufacturers of LED Lights. In the third round of the online application window of the PLI Scheme, a total of 38 applications were received. The Ministry said, altogether, 84 companies under the PLI Scheme for White Goods are set to bring investments of ten thousand 478 crore rupees.

Centre will soon launch the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM).

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said the Centre will soon launch the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) to enhance domestic production, reduce import dependence, and encourage offshore mining auctions while urging states to cooperate for sustained mining activities. Speaking at the 3rd National Mining Ministers' Conference in Konark, Odisha, he said lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and rare earth elements are known as critical minerals, which are essential for manufacturing defense equipment and key technologies.

Mr. Reddy also announced that India had launched the auction of 48 critical mineral blocks, with 24 successfully allotted.

NCLT orders liquidation of Go First airline.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) ordered the liquidation of Go First Airways after a request from the cash-strapped airline's lenders. In August, Go First's lenders had decided to liquidate the company's assets after rejecting bids by interested suitors to revive the bankrupt airline.

It was owned by the Indian business conglomerate the Wadia Group

IOB Q3 net profit rises 21% to ₹874 cr.

Public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) reported December quarter net profit rose nearly 21% to ₹874 crore from ₹723 crore in the year earlier on the back of improved asset quality and business. The growth was attributed to a decline in bad loans.

The bank's total income grew 13 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 8,409 crore during the quarter under review, compared to Rs 7,437 crore in the same period last year.

Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel join hands to create digital platforms for financial services.

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) firm Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel announced a strategic partnership to create a digital platform for financial services. Airtel will initially offer Bajaj Finance's retail financial products on its Airtel Thanks App for seamless and secure customer experience, and later through its nationwide network of stores

Sports

India set to host FIDE Chess World Cup 2025.

India is set to host the FIDE Chess World Cup 2025, marking the country's first major international chess tournament since the 2022 Chennai Chess Olympiad. FIDE, the international chess governing body, initially listed India as the host in its 2025 calendar for the tournament scheduled from October 31 to November 27.

The FIDE World Cup, a prestigious knockout tournament featuring over 200 players, also serves as a pathway to the Candidates Tournament, with three qualification spots up for grabs.

Tata Steel Chess 2025, Round 3: Gukesh draws with Caruana.

World champion D Gukesh had it easy in the third round of Tata Steel Chess Tournament as the Indian played out a draw with top seed Fabiano Caruana of the United States. Gukesh thus moved to two points out of a possible three in the first major tournament of the year