

(21st July 2025)

International

Latin American countries to launch own AI model in September.

A dozen Latin American countries are collaborating to launch Latam-GPT in September, the first large artificial intelligence language model trained to understand the region's diverse cultures and linguistic nuances. This open-source project, steered by Chile's state-run National Center for Artificial Intelligence (CENIA) alongside over 30 regional institutions, seeks to significantly increase the uptake and accessibility of AI across Latin America.

Alan Bergman, Oscar-Winning Lyricist, dies.

Alan Bergman, one of Hollywood's most celebrated lyricists, passed away. He was 99. Bergman, along with his wife and creative partner Marilyn Bergman, created some of the most iconic songs in film and television history. Together, they penned hundreds of songs that became enduring classics, leaving an unmistakable mark on American music. The Way We Were, recorded by Streisand for the 1973 romantic drama of the same name, became an anthem of nostalgia and longing.

The song topped charts in 1974 and earned the Bergmans one of their three Academy Awards

National

Over 100 MPs have signed impeachment motion against Justice Yaswant Varma.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has said that over 100 MPs have already signed a notice to bring a motion in Parliament for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma, which is the minimum support required for tabling the impeachment exercise in the Lok Sabha. A motion for the removal of a judge has to be signed by not less than 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 50 in the Rajya Sabha. The motion is likely to be brought in the Lower House.

Varma, who has been kept off judicial work, has protested his innocence and has moved the Supreme Court against the in-house committee's findings.

CBI-backed Interpol Red Notices doubled since 2023 with India's diplomatic, tech push.

Interpol's Red Notices issued at the CBI's request have more than doubled annually since 2023. Since 2023, the number of Red Notices issued by Lyon-based International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) on India's request spiralled to 100 notices in 2023, 107 in 2024 and 56 in the first six months of 2025. Meanwhile, it had issued 25 Red Notices in 2020, 47 in 2021 and 40 in 2022.

The Interpol issues eight coloured notices for different purposes to 195 member countries, alerting them on a request from a country. Recently, it has added a ninth one -Silver Notice on a pilot basis this year to track illicit assets parked abroad.

Youth Spiritual Summit concludes With Kashi Declaration.

The three-day Youth Spiritual Summit on the topic of Drug-free Youth for Developed India concluded with the Kashi Declaration. The resolution expressed commitment to a nationwide campaign for drug-free youth. A roadmap has been prepared through the Kashi Sankalp Patra to make the youth drug-free in the construction of a developed India.

INS Sandhayak visits Malaysian port.

INS Sandhayak, the first of the indigenously designed and built hydrographic survey ship, is visiting Port Klang in Malaysia to foster international goodwill and elevate awareness of the MAHASAGAR vision. Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions or MAHASAGAR vision of India seeks to boost regional maritime cooperation.

Business and Economy

IMF says, India becomes global leader in fast payments as UPI records 18.39 billion transactions in June this year.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) says, India leads the world in fast payments with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recording 18.39 billion transactions worth over 24.03 lakh crore rupees in June this year. According to a recent IMF note titled 'Growing Retail Digital Payments: The Value of Interoperability', UPI has revolutionized India's payment ecosystem, processing over 18 billion transactions monthly.

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According to government data, UPI now processes over 18 billion transactions every month, accounting for 85 per cent of India's total digital payments. In June alone, the platform recorded 18.39 billion transactions worth 24.03 lakh crore rupees, a 32 per cent increase from June last year. With 491 million users and 65 million merchants onboard, UPI connects 675 banks through a single digital framework.

Indian electronic exports hit \$40 billion: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

India's electronics exports have soared past \$40 billion, marking an eight-fold growth over the last 11 years, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. He also highlighted that the domestic electronics production has gone up by six times. In just about three and a half years, India could design a complete 4G telecom stack. Today, it is installed on almost 90,000 telecom towers, which is more than the network of many countries in the world.

India-EFTA trade pact to be implemented from October 1: Piyush Goyal.

The Free Trade Agreement between India and the four-nation European bloc EFTA will be implemented from October 1, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said. The two sides signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) on March 10, 2024. Under the pact, India has received an investment commitment of \$100 billion in 15 years from the grouping while allowing several products, such as Swiss watches, chocolates, and cut and polished diamonds, at lower or zero duties

Yes Bank Q1 net profit surges 59% to ₹801 crore.

Yes Bank Ltd for the first quarter ended on June 30, 2025 has reported 59% growth in net profit at ₹ 801 crore over the year ago period.

Net Interest Income (NII) for the quarter at ₹2,371 crore grew 5.7% YoY, aided by reduction in cost of funds.

Union Bank of India reports 12% rise in net to ₹4,116 crore in Q1.

Union Bank of India has reported a 12% rise in net profit to ₹4,116 crore during the first quarter of this financial year. It had earned a net profit of ₹3,679 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. The total income rose to ₹31,791 crore during the June 2025 quarter from ₹30,874 crore in the year-ago period

Central Bank of India Q1 net profit rises 33% to ₹1,169 crore.

State-owned Central Bank of India has posted a 33% growth in net profit at ₹1,169 crore during the first quarter of this financial year, aided by improvement in core income and decline in bad debts.

The bank had earned a net profit of ₹880 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Sports

Scheffler wins British Open title.

World number one golfer, Scottie Scheffler has claimed his first Open Championship title with a four-shot victory at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland. Scheffler is also the first player in more than 100 years to win his first four majors by three strokes or more and the first world number one to win the Open since Tiger Woods in 2006.

Sreeshankar wins long jump title in Portugal.

Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar has won the gold medal with a leap of 7.75m at the Meeting Maia Cidade do Desporto in Maia, Portugal, a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze-level meet. The Meeting Maia Cidade do Desporto is a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level meet (category C) in Portugal.

Wrestling: India's Priya Malik wins silver in Budapest Ranking Series.

Priya Malik has won a silver medal after being beaten 4-3 by Brazil's Pan-American silver medallist Thamires Machado in the women's 76kg final at the Ranking Series wrestling event in Budapest. Asian champion Manisha Bhanwala (62kg) bagged a bronze medal.

Murugappa Gold Cup: Railways complete a hat-trick of titles.

Defending champion Indian Railways has defeated the Indian Navy 3-1 in the final of the 96th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup hockey tournament at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium and completed a hat-trick of titles.