

International

Mexico's Fatima Bosch crowned Miss Universe 2025 winner.

Mexico's Fátima Bosch was crowned Miss Universe 2025 in an emotional finale in Bangkok, Thailand. Miss Thailand is the first runner-up, and Miss Venezuela emerged as the second runner-up. Miss Philippines and Miss Côte d'Ivoire finished in the fourth and fifth positions, respectively. The last round of Miss Universe 2025 concluded with the top 12 finalists in the evening gown round. Before this was the swimsuit round in which Miss India Universe Manika Vishwakarma exited the competition.

US Congress approves bill to release govt documents related to Jeffrey Epstein.

The United States Congress has approved a bill to release government documents related to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, clearing the way for making the files public. The House of Representatives voted with 427-1, sending it to the Senate, which agreed to pass it by unanimous consent.

The case of Epstein has sparked intrigue in the US, given his connections to powerful people, including Donald Trump.

PM Modi to attend 20th G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Johannesburg, South Africa, from November 21st to 23rd to attend the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit. This will be the fourth consecutive G20 Summit held in the Global South. The Prime Minister is expected to speak in all three sessions of the Summit. On the margins of the G20 Leaders' Summit, Mr Modi is expected to hold bilateral meetings with some of the leaders present in Johannesburg.

World Fisheries Day 2025 to be celebrated on 21st November.

World Fisheries Day 2025 was celebrated on the 21st of this month at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi. The theme for this year is India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports.

India is the second-largest fish-producing country and one of the largest shrimp producers

in the World. India's fish production has more than doubled from 96 lakh tonnes in 2013-14 to 195 lakh tonnes in 2024-25

National

US clears \$93 million sale of Javelin Missiles, Excalibur Projectiles to India.

The United States has approved the possible sale of the Javelin missile system, Excalibur projectiles, and related equipment at a total estimated cost of \$92.8 million. The first sale package to India, worth \$45.7 million, includes the Javelin FGM-148 missile, fly-to-buy; 25 Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LwCLU) or Javelin Block 1 Command Launch Units (CLU).

The second sale package, meanwhile, approves the possible sale of Excalibur Projectiles and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$47.1 million.

Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar Chief Minister for record 10th time.

Nitish Kumar was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar at Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan for a record-extending tenth time.

Janata Dal United leader has swept 85 of the state's 243 seats to power itself and its main ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party, to a landslide win; the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance won 202 seats.

Ex-Chile President Michelle Bachelet presented with the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 was presented by Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi to Michelle Bachelet, the first and only woman President of Chile and a former chief of UN Human Rights. Bachelet is a two-term President of Chile (2006-2010 and 2014-2018).

Ministry of Jal Shakti launches "Hamara Shauchalaya, Hamara Bhavishya" campaign on World Toilet Day 2025.

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the nationwide campaign, 'Hamara Shauchalaya, Hamara Bhavishya' (हमारा शौचालय, हमारा

भविष्य) on World Toilet Day 2025 on November 19. The campaign reiterates the importance of toilets and ensuring their proper maintenance to provide safe sanitation to communities today and to prepare for a cleaner and healthier future.

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal has underscored the country's remarkable progress in sanitation and hygiene under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), saying that 11 crore toilets have been built across the country.

India Post unveils first Gen Z-themed Post Office at IIT Delhi.

The first Gen Z-themed revamped Post Office was inaugurated at IIT Delhi. This initiative reflects the vision of Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to transform Post Offices into vibrant, youth-centric spaces that resonate with today's students and young citizens. Designed collaboratively with students, the space features modern aesthetics, Wi-Fi-enabled zones, creative graffiti and artwork by the IIT Fine Arts Society.

Business and Economy

Kotak, Federal Bank in talks to acquire Deutsche Bank's India retail & wealth portfolios.

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank are in the race to purchase the retail and wealth management businesses of Deutsche Bank in India. This is the second attempt in eight years by the German lender to sell this revenue stream in the country. The bank's retail segmental revenue for FY25 stood at Rs 2,455 crore, compared with Rs 2,362 crore in the previous financial year.

Deutsche Bank had Rs 25,038 crore in retail banking assets as of March 2025.

HDFC Bank tops India's most valued brands for 2025, overtaking TCS.

According to the 2025 Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Indian Brands report, HDFC Bank, carrying a brand value of \$44.9 billion, has surged past IT consulting behemoth TCS to reclaim its crown as the country's most valued brand. HDFC Bank has seen its brand value rise 377 per cent since the first BrandZ India Report

was released in 2014. HDFC Bank had held the lead from 2014 until TCS moved past it in 2022. According to the report, India's top 100 most valuable brands together are now worth \$523.5 billion, or around 13 per cent of the country's GDP. While brands in financial services and business technology and services platforms continue to occupy most of the top 10 positions, Airtel stands out as the fastest-growing brand among the top 10 rankings, recording a 38 per cent jump in brand value since 2024.

UltraTech Cement, which makes a strong newcomer entry at the seventh place with a brand valuation of \$14,524 million.

Karnataka launches concept of India's 'first Quantum City' in Bengaluru.

"India's first Quantum City", proposed at Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru, is aimed at positioning the state at the forefront of the global quantum technology landscape. The proposed Quantum City will offer end-to-end plug-and-play services, from research to incubation to commercialisation for quantum technologies.

Quantum City will feature state-of-the-art research laboratories and a dedicated Quantum Hardware Park. It will also include cryogenic and precision testing facilities, quantum cloud and data clusters, and a deep-tech and quantum startup district.

SIDBI-BOB sign MoU to strengthen MSME and startup financing.

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Bank of Baroda (BOB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly enhance credit access for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups. The collaboration aims to enhance working capital flows, strengthen export-linked financing, and streamline credit delivery in line with India's Vision 2047 for a Vibrant India.

Under the agreement, both will collaborate on joint financing for MSMEs, combining SIDBI's sectoral expertise with BOB's extensive branch network. The partnership also includes the operationalisation of BOB's digital Working Capital Platform for SIDBI-sanctioned borrowers, aiming to deliver faster, technology-enabled credit access.

L&T to produce armoured vehicle BvS10 Sindhu for Indian Army.

Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) and BAE Systems have bagged a contract from the Indian Army for the supply of BvS10 Sindhu – a specialised all-terrain armoured vehicle.

Under the contract, L&T will indigenously produce the BvS10 Sindhu at its Armoured Systems Complex in Hazira with technical and design support from BAE Systems Hägglunds, the original manufacturer of the BvS10 platform.

Nvidia, Microsoft invest \$15 billion in AI startup Anthropic

Nvidia and Microsoft have announced investments totalling \$15 billion in AI startup Anthropic, creator of the Claude chatbot, amid frenzied spending on the technology

AI chip powerhouse Nvidia has committed up to \$10 billion, while Microsoft—which owns 27 per cent of Anthropic rival OpenAI—pledged up to \$5 billion to the maker of Claude AI models.

Infibeam Avenues gets RBI approval for Offline Payment Aggregator Services.

Infibeam Avenues has received authorization from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a payment aggregator for offline payments through Point of Sale (POS) devices. This is the company's fourth RBI license under its CCAvenue brand, enabling it to offer unified digital and offline payment solutions to merchants. The approval positions Infibeam

Avenues to tap into India's growing POS device market, projected to reach ₹135.32 billion by 2034.

Sports

Roger Federer inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Roger Federer was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2026 in his first year of eligibility, capping a legendary career that included 20 Grand Slam titles and a lasting impact on the sport. The Hall, based in Rhode Island, announced that Federer was the sole player-category nominee to clear the required voting threshold, though it never discloses the exact numbers.

In the contributor category, longtime broadcaster and former player Mary Carillo also earned election. All inductees will be honoured during the August ceremony.

India bags nine golds at World Boxing Cup Finals 2025.

India concluded their debut campaign at the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 with a stunning haul of nine gold medals on the final day in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Indian Women boxers Jaismine Lamboria, Nikhat Zareen, Parveen Hooda, Arundhati Choudhary, Preeti Pawar, Minakshi Hooda and Nupur Sheoran delivered a golden sweep with 7 gold medals in the tournament, marking a historic achievement for the country.

Meanwhile, Indian men boxers have secured four silvers also.