

International

Afghanistan, China and Pakistan agree to extend CPEC, boost Trilateral Cooperation in Kabul Dialogue.

The Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan have agreed to expand their cooperation in multiple fields, including the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Kabul. Representatives of all the three nations took part in the 6th Trilateral Foreign Ministers Dialogue in Kabul, which focused on political, economic and security cooperation.

IBM & NASA launch Surya, New AI for Predicting Solar Weather.

IBM and NASA have announced the open-source release of Surya, an AI foundation model built to interpret high-resolution solar observation data and forecast solar weather. Surya can be used to predict the kinds of fierce solar outbursts that can endanger astronauts in space and throw off satellites, power grids, and communications on Earth – faster than ever before.

Solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) can knock satellites offline, disrupt navigation and even threaten aviation safety.

Saudi Arabia launches online pilgrimage visa and related services for international travellers.

Saudi Arabia has introduced a new digital platform to simplify the Umrah journey for international pilgrims. The service allows users to apply for visas and book key travel services online, as part of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 plan to modernise religious tourism. The services available at umrah. nusuk.sa offers a single online space where pilgrims can arrange accommodation, transportation, guided tours, and other services

August 21: International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the victims of terrorism.

The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on August 21st every year. This year, the theme “United for Hope: Collective Actions for Victims of Terrorism” emphasizes the hope that

emerges when victims come together to transform pain into purpose and drive meaningful change.

National

MoD to host first tri-services seminar “Ran Samwad” at Army War College, Mhow on Technology and Future Warfare.

The Ministry of Defence is organising a first-of-its-kind Tri-Services Seminar, “Ran Samwad-Conversations on War, Warfare, and Warfighting,” at the Army War College in Mhow (Dr. Ambedkar Nagar). Scheduled from the 26th to the 27th of this month, the seminar will focus on the Impact of Technology on Warfare with two sub-themes: Emerging Technologies and Impact on Future Warfare and Reforms in Institutionalised Training to Catalyse Technological Enablement.

U.P.'s Jalalabad to get a new name, Parashurampuri.

The Union Home Ministry has approved the renaming of Jalalabad town in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district to Parashurampuri. The State government had told the Centre that Jalalabad is known as the birthplace of Parashuram, the saint, and houses an ancient temple dedicated to him

UIDAI collaborates with private net service Starlink for Aadhaar verification.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has collaborated with a private satellite-based internet service provider, Starlink, for seamless Aadhaar-based customer verification. The Ministry of Electronics and IT said that the use of Aadhaar authentication by a global satellite internet provider demonstrates the scalability and reliability of India's digital infrastructure. It added that this collaboration emphasises how Aadhaar can enable innovation in service delivery while ensuring transparency and accountability.

EC takes several initiatives to streamline and improve electoral process.

Over the past six months, the Election Commission has taken several initiatives which aim to streamline and improve the electoral

process. Twenty-eight such new initiatives were rolled out, which include the Delisting of inactive Registered Unrecognised Political Parties, 100% Webcasting at Polling Stations, Special Intensive Revision in Bihar, Training of Booth Level Agents appointed by Political Parties and training of Booth Level Officers and Supervisors in the National Capital.

These initiatives span around engagement with all stakeholders, strengthening and cleanup of electoral systems, enhancing the use of technology, ease of voting, purity of electoral rolls and capacity building.

Business and Economy

Wipro to acquire a Samsung-owned tech firm, in a cash deal of \$375 million.

Wipro Limited has entered into an agreement to acquire the Digital Transformation Solutions (DTS) business unit of HARMAN, a Samsung company, in a cash deal of \$375 million. As part of the agreement, over 5,600 DTS employees, including key leadership, across the Americas, Europe and Asia will transition to Wipro upon closing of the transaction, by December 31, 2025. Upon completion of the acquisition, DTS will be integrated into Wipro's Engineering Global Business Line.

DTS is a Connecticut-based provider of Embedded Software, Digital Engineering, Design Thinking, and Device Engineering.

Tata Technologies introduces WATTSync—a digital battery passport.

Tata Technologies Ltd, a product engineering and digital services company, has announced the introduction of WATTSync, a digital battery passport solution that advances sustainable engineering from mining to recycling. WATTSync captures and validates battery data from mine to mobility to recycling and gives teams a live, shared view of materials, performance, carbon footprint and recovery status.

UltraTech Cement to sell up to 6.5% stake in unit India Cements.

The UltraTech Cement board has approved the plan to sell up to 2.01 crore shares of India Cements, representing 6.49 percent stake in the company.

The stake sale will be done through an offer for sale (OFS). The floor price for the stake sale has been set at Rs 368 per share, and the offer window will remain open from August 21 to August 22.

UltraTech Cement held an 81.49 per cent stake in India Cements at the end of the June quarter of the financial year 2026. After the stake sale, UltraTech Cement will hold a 75 per cent stake in the company.

Honda sets up new subsidiary in India for auto financing business, to apply for NBFC licence.

Honda Motor Co. Ltd. of Japan has announced the establishment of a new company in India, Honda Finance India Private Ltd., that will offer customers retail sales financing services, including loans and lease sales options for Honda products in India. After obtaining the licence, the company will begin offering retail sales financing services to help customers finance their purchase of motorcycles, automobiles and services provided by Honda.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey moots regulated pre-IPO trading platform.

SEBI chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey has suggested introducing a regulated platform for pre-IPO (initial public offering) share trading, potentially replacing existing grey market operations.

This new platform may permit investors to trade shares in a regulated environment in the three-day period between IPO allotment and listing. Also, this initiative may replace the existing unregulated grey market, which currently operates during this period.

EPFO hikes death relief fund ex gratia to Rs 15 lakh

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has raised the ex gratia amount under the Death Relief Fund for Central Board employees from Rs 8.8 lakh to Rs 15 lakh, effective from April 1, 2025. This amount will be provided to the nominee or legal heirs of employees who die while in service and will be disbursed from the Staff Welfare Fund.

EPFO has also announced that the ex-gratia amount will increase by 5% annually, starting from April 1, 2026, to keep pace with inflation and rising costs.

Sports

India's First Khelo India Water Sports festival begins at Dal Lake.

The first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) has begun at the scenic Dal Lake in Jammu & Kashmir. Over 400 top athletes from 36 states and Union Territories compete for 24 gold medals in rowing, kayaking, and canoeing in the three-day national event.

The festival will also feature three demonstration events, water skiing, shikhara boat sprint, and dragon boat race, aiming to boost tourism.

U20 World Wrestling Championships 2025: Tapasya wins India's first gold.

Indian wrestler Tapsya has won the nation's first gold medal at the U20 World Wrestling

Championships 2025 in Bulgaria. Tapasya defeated Norway's Felicitas Domajeva 5-2 in the women's 57kg category final.

In the women's 68kg category, India's Srishti won silver after losing 0-7 to Japan's Ray Hoshino in the final.

Asian Shooting: Indian Men's Team wins Gold in 10mt air rifle.

The Indian men's air rifle team of Arjun Babuta, Rudrankksh Patil, and Kiran Jadhav have won the gold medal in men's 10m Air Rifle at the Asian Shooting Championships in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. The three shooters accumulated a total score of 1892.5.

Meanwhile, Mansi Raghuwanshi has won the gold medal, while compatriot Yashasvi Rathore claimed bronze in a 1-2 finish for India in the women's junior skeet competition.