

International

Truce efforts to stop violent border clashes between Thailand and Cambodia

To stop violent border clashes between Thailand and Cambodia that have killed 40 people and displaced over 5 lakh people this month, Southeast Asian foreign ministers are going to meet in Malaysia. This gathering in Kuala Lumpur marks the first direct talks between the two nations since fighting resumed on December 8.

Spearheaded by Malaysia and supported by US President Donald Trump, the group hopes to revive a failed ceasefire. This conflict is rooted in a century-old dispute over the 11th-century Preah Vihear Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site located on a cliff between the two countries. While the International Court of Justice awarded the temple to Cambodia in 1962, the surrounding land remains disputed, leading to periodic military skirmishes.

A dozen Latin American countries are collaborating to launch their own AI model.

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

National

National Mathematics Day

December 22 is designated as National Mathematics Day in recognition of Ramanujan's extraordinary contributions to the discipline. National Mathematics Day will be observed on the day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, one of India's most influential and globally recognised

mathematicians. The day will be marked across educational institutions, research bodies and academic forums to highlight the importance of mathematics in scientific progress and everyday life.

SHANTI Bill gets Presidential Assent

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, passed by the Parliament during the Winter Session, received the Presidential Assent. The Bill subsumes all laws dealing with the civil nuclear sector and also opens it up for participation by private players.

The SHANTI Bill repealed the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, which was deemed to be an impediment to the growth of the civil nuclear sector in India. The law enables private companies and joint ventures to build, own, operate and decommission nuclear power plants under a license from the government.

No imminent threat to the Aravallis' ecology, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that the ongoing afforestation, eco-sensitive zone notifications, and strict monitoring of mining and urban activities ensure that the Aravallis continue to serve as a natural heritage and ecological shield for the nation and that there is no imminent threat to the Aravallis' ecology. The Aravalli range spreads across four states of the country, including Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav has said that the Supreme Court's 100-metre ruling is being misinterpreted. The Minister said that the total area of Aravallis is 1 lakh 47 thousand square kilometres, and mining is allowed only in 0.19% of the range. Mr Yadav said, as per the apex court ruling, 90% of the Aravalli area comes under the protected zone, and there are no relaxations in this regard.

50 per cent of India's installed power generation capacity now comes from non-fossil fuel sources.

India, in 2025, achieved a major climate milestone, with 50 per cent of its installed power generation capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of its 2030 target under the Paris Agreement signed in December 2015.

India now has a total installed generation capacity of about 510 gigawatts, comprising 247 GW of fossil-fuel sources and 262 GW of non-fossil fuel sources (including 254 GW from renewable energy sources).

Economy/Business

IIFL Finance appoints former RBI Deputy Governor B. P. Kanungo as non-executive chairman of the board.

NBFC firm IIFL Finance has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor B. P. Kanungo as non-executive chairman of the board.

The board approved Kanungo's appointment with immediate effect, underscoring its strong confidence in his leadership, independence, and deep regulatory and institutional expertise, IIFL Finance said in a regulatory filing on December 20, 2025.

BEML bags an order from the Ministry of Defence for the supply of engines.

BEML has secured an order from the Ministry of Defence for the supply of engines with an approximate contract value of ₹110 crore.

This follows an earlier ₹157-crore order for the manufacture of switch rail grinding machines from Loram Rail Maintenance India Private Ltd. The machines will be supplied to Indian Railways for track maintenance.

IIM Nagpur and ONGC Green Limited sign an MoU in the field of green and future energy.

ONGC Green Limited and the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIM) signed an agreement to collaborate on research, capacity building, and policy-driven initiatives in the field of green and future energy.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the two institutions will jointly work on key areas such as environmental sustainability and ESG frameworks, renewable energy integration into power systems, carbon and green credit markets, energy storage, e-mobility policies, and leadership development.

Sports

Pakistan's under-19 cricket team wins the Asia Cup.

Pakistan's under-19 cricket team has won the Asia Cup, defeating India by 191 runs in the final in Dubai on 21st December.

Put into bat first, Pakistan posted 347 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the stipulated 50 overs. Chasing the target of 348 runs, India were bowled out for 156 in 26.2 overs. Sameer Minhas of Pakistan was adjudged the Player of the Match and the Player of the Tournament.

East Bengal FC wins the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025.

East Bengal FC has won the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025 with a dominant 3-0 win against hosts Nepal's APF (Armed Police Forces) in the final at Dasrath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal.