

International

Conservationist Purnima Devi Barman makes it to Time's Women of the Year list.

A biologist from Assam, Purnima Devi Barman, was featured on the Time's Women Of The Year 2025 list as a conservationist for saving one of the most endangered storks in the world. Dr. Barman was selected for her pioneering efforts in bringing back from the brink a small population of the critically endangered greater adjutant stork (locally called 'Hargila'). She accomplished this remarkable turnaround by involving local communities, especially the womenfolk, in conservation.

Chinese researchers find bat virus enters human cells via same pathway as COVID.

Researchers at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology have identified a new coronavirus in bats that uses the same entry pathway into cells as the virus responsible for Covid-19. The virus has not been found in humans and was only detected in a laboratory.

The virus, known as HKU5-CoV-2, does not enter human cells as easily as SARS-CoV-2 does. HKU5-CoV-2 shares similarities with Covid-19 as well as the virus that causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) as they all emerge from the HKU5 coronavirus.

National

TRAI releases recommendations for new broadcasting services Act.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released its recommendations for the Framework for Service Authorisations for provision of Broadcasting Services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

The recommendations include a proposal to remove the minimum net worth requirement of ₹100 crore for the Internet service providers to offer IPTV service and its alignment with the provisions contained in the authorisation for Internet Services to be issued by the Department of Telecom.

PM to release 19th instalment of Kisan Nidhi from Bihar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 19th installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi on February 24 at a function to be held at Bhagalpur in Bihar. About 9.80 crore beneficiaries will receive ₹2,000 in their accounts for which the Centre has allocated ₹22,000 crore. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that in the 18th installment, farmers received about ₹20,665 crore.

UP Assembly becomes India's first legislative body to introduce translation services

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly is set to make history as the first legislative body in the country to be equipped with a translation facility. The arrangement for this will be proposed before the ruling committee and will be implemented once approved by the House of Suit. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has already reviewed rehearsals for translation services in multiple languages, including Awadhi, Braj, Bhojpuri, Bundelkhand, and English.

Business and Economy

RBI to conduct USD-INR swap auction of \$10 bn for 3 years' tenor.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to inject Rupee liquidity for longer duration through long-term USD-INR Buy/Sell swap auction. Accordingly, the RBI will conduct a USD-INR Buy/Sell swap auction of \$10 billion for a tenure of three years.

The swap is in the nature of a simple buy/sell foreign exchange swap from the Reserve Bank side. A bank will need to sell U.S. dollars to the Reserve Bank and simultaneously agree to buy the same amount of U.S. dollars at the end of the swap period.

Irdai sets up panel led by ex-SBI chairman implement amendments to insurance law

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has set up a seven-

member committee headed by former chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) Dinesh Khara to examine proposed amendments to the Insurance Act, 1938 and suggest a framework for its implementation. The government has proposed amendment to insurance law to increase foreign direct investment to 100 per cent and other changes.

Reliance is India's most valuable company: 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 companies.

Reliance Industries (RIL) is still India's most valuable company for the fourth year straight, according to the latest Burgundy Private and Hurun India 500 list. The total market capitalization of Reliance Industries at Rs 17.5 lakh crore. TCS comes in second at Rs 16.1 lakh crore, and HDFC Bank takes third place with Rs 14.2 lakh crore.

The total value of the 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 companies stands at Rs 324 lakh crore (about \$3.8 trillion). This is more than India's GDP and even the combined economies of the UAE, Indonesia, and Spain.

Sri Lanka's Headline Inflation drops to -4% in January

Headline inflation in Sri Lanka, as measured by the National Consumer Price Index, dropped to minus 4 percent in January. The year-on-year inflation was recorded at minus 2 percent in December. According to data released by Sri Lanka's Department of Census and Statistics, inflation has remained in negative territory for five months.

RBI launches 'RBIDATA' app to offer access to economic, financial data.

The Reserve Bank of India has launched mobile application 'RBIDATA' which will provide access to more than 11,000 different series of economic data related to the Indian economy. The mobile app offers macroeconomic and financial statistics relating to the Indian economy in a user-friendly and visually engaging format.

Users will be able to view time series data in graphs/charts and download data for analysis. There will also be details such as data source,

unit of measurement, frequency and recent updates.

Cryptocurrency theft of £1.1bn could be biggest ever

Cryptocurrency firm Bybit said hackers stole \$1.5bn (£1.1bn) worth of digital currency in what could be the biggest crypto theft in history. It said hackers stole from its Ethereum coin digital wallet. Ethereum is the second largest cryptocurrency by value after Bitcoin. Bybit holds \$20bn (£15bn) in assets.

BOI reports ₹226.84 cr loan fraud by Gupta Power Infrastructure.

State-owned Bank of India (BOI) has reported a fraud of ₹226.84 crore by Odisha-based Gupta Power Infrastructure Ltd to the Reserve Bank. The bank has informed that Non Performing Asset (NPA) of Gupta Power Infrastructure Ltd has been declared as fraud.

Sports

ICC Champions Trophy: South Africa downs Afghanistan.

South Africa defeated Afghanistan by 107 runs in the teams' Champions Trophy opening game in Karachi. South Africa's opener Rickelton hit a 106-ball 103 with seven boundaries and a six to anchor South Africa's imposing total of 315-6 in the Group B match. Afghanistan was all out for just 208 in 43.3 overs.

Basketball: Curry makes history as Warriors beat Kings.

Stephen Curry became the first Golden State Warriors player in NBA history to reach 700 20-point career games after helping his side to a 132-108 win against the Sacramento Kings. Curry was one of four players to get 20 points or more, with Brandin Podziemski and Moses Moody combining for 43 while Buddy Hield had 22.

The win moved the Warriors above the Kings in the Western Conference standings into ninth.