

International

US to leave UNESCO.

The US has said that it will leave the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO, accusing it of supporting divisive cultural and social causes. The move is the latest step in the Trump administration's efforts to cut ties with international bodies, after removing the US from the World Health Organisation and the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as cutting funding for foreign relief efforts. This will be the third time that the United States has left UNESCO, which is based in Paris, and the second time during a Trump administration.

UNESCO has 194 member states around the world, and is best known for listing world heritage sites. The US's decision will take effect from December 2026.

Andorra is world's safest country.

Andorra, a tiny European nation situated between France and Spain in the Pyrenees mountains, was found to be the world's safest country of 2025, according to Numbeo Safety Index. Three Middle Eastern nations, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Oman, were among the top five countries in the world with the lowest crime rates, with the most robust security infrastructure.

Among the 147 nations, India was ranked 66 (score: 55.7), while UK was at 87 (score: 51.7) and US at 89 (score: 50.8).

South American nation Venezuela emerged as the least safe country in 2025, followed by Papua New Guinea, Haiti, Afghanistan and South Africa.

ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and UK sign new strategic partnership.

Britain and ChatGPT maker OpenAI have signed a new strategic partnership to deepen collaboration on AI security research and explore investing in British AI infrastructure, such as data centres. The UK government has set out plans to invest 1 billion pounds in computing infrastructure for AI development, hoping to increase public compute capacity 20 fold over the next five years.

Gita Gopinath leaving IMF in August.

Gita Gopinath, the No. 2 official at the International Monetary Fund, will leave her post at the end of August to return to Harvard University, the IMF said. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva will name a successor to Ms. Gopinath in "due course,". Ms. Gopinath has joined the fund in 2019 as chief economist — the first woman to serve in that role — and was promoted to first deputy managing director in January 2022.

National

Meri Panchayat App secures WSIS Champion Award 2025.

The “Meri Panchayat” mobile application, a transformative digital governance initiative by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the National Informatics Centre (NIC), has been honoured with the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2025 Champion Award. The accolade was awarded under the Action Line Category for Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity, and Local Content, was presented at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The Meri Panchayat app empowers over 25 lakh elected representatives and approximately 950 million rural residents across India's 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats. It provides real-time access to panchayat budgets, receipts, payments, and development plans, along with details of elected representatives, public infrastructure, and civic services.

Indian Army gets first batch of Apache helicopters from U.S.

The Indian Army has received the first batch of Apache Helicopters from United States at Hindon Airbase. The induction of the first batch of three advanced combat helicopters Apache AH-64E will bolster Army operational capabilities along Western Border. It will be deployed in Jodhpur with Army Aviation Corps.

Deepak Bagla joins AIM as mission director.

Deepak Bagla, the former MD and CEO of Invest India, has assumed charge as the mission director of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog. Prior to this, Bagla was heading India's national investment promotion and facilitation agency, Invest India. Under his leadership, Invest India emerged as a key institution supporting entrepreneurship, innovation, and startup growth across the country.

The Atal Innovation Mission continues to play a central role in advancing the government's mission on innovation and entrepreneurship.

MoUs of five HICDP Projects signed between India & Nepal in Education and Health Sectors.

The Embassy of India, Kathmandu, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal and Project Implementing Agencies of the Government of Nepal have signed MoUs for undertaking 5 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal under the grant assistance of Government of India in Education and Health Sectors, at a total estimated cost of NRs. 390 million.

The construction of these facilities will help provide better education and health facilities to the people in Nepal. Since 2003, the Government of India has taken up 579 High Impact Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal.

UIDAI to roll out biometric Aadhaar update for children through schools in phased manner.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is working on a project to initiate biometric updates for children through schools in a phased manner within the next two months. UIDAI Chief Executive Officer Bhuvnesh Kumar told that more than seven crore children have not yet completed their mandatory biometric update (MBU), which is required after a child attains the age of five.

National Flag Day observed on July 22 in India 2025.

Every year on July 22, India commemorates National Flag Day, also known as Tiranga Adoption Day. This year, it's being observed on July 22, 2025, falling on Tuesday.

On July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India has officially adopted the Indian National Flag, known as the Tiranga, which means Tricolour.

Business and Economy

Ex-ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar found guilty in loan sanction To Videocon.

An appellate tribunal has held former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar guilty of accepting a Rs 64 crore bribe in connection with the sanctioning of a Rs 300 crore loan to the Videocon Group. The tribunal ruled that the former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar had received a Rs 64 crore bribe through a "quid pro quo" arrangement involving her husband Deepak Kochhar and a company linked to the Videocon Group.

The tribunal backed the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) case, stating that Kochhar failed to disclose a clear conflict of interest while sanctioning a Rs 300 crore loan to Videocon.

Titan to acquire 67% stake in UAE-based Damas jewellery.

India's leading branded jewellery maker Titan will acquire a majority 67% stake in UAE-based Damas Jewellery in an all-cash deal, a move which helps the Tata group-managed firm to expand business in GCC countries.

Titan's wholly-owned subsidiary Titan Holdings International FZCO has signed a definitive agreement with Mannai Corporation for the purchase of its 67% shareholding in Damas LLC (UAE), the current holding company for Damas jewellery business in GCC countries.

Fast-track migration to ISO 2022 to avoid cross-border payments rejection: IBA to banks

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has asked all banks to fast-track the implementation of the SWIFT ISO 2022 norms, failing which they may face difficulties in cross-border payments. IBA Chief Executive Atul Kumar Goel emphasized the importance of starting migration by August 2025. Banks risk message rejections and customer impact if they delay, as the coexistence period ends November 2025, he said ISO 2022 is a global standard for financial messaging that the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) is adopting for cross-border payments and reporting.

Bajaj Finance's MD Anup Saha resigns.

Bajaj Finance Managing Director Anup Kumar Saha has resigned just four months after his appointment, citing personal reasons. The non-banking financial company said it has appointed Rajeev Jain to the role till March 31, 2028. Jain will also continue to serve as vice chairman of the company. Jain had served as the company's managing director before Saha.

Punjab & Sind Bank Q1 net profit jumps 48% to ₹269 crore.

Punjab & Sind Bank has reported a 48% jump in net profit at Rs 269 crore for the first quarter of the fiscal over Rs 182 crore in the year-ago period, buoyed by a rise in treasury gains. The bank's asset quality improved, with gross non-performing assets ratio falling to 3.34% as June 30 from 4.72% a year ago.

LIC signs MoU with rural development ministry to promote Bima Sakhi Yojana.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has partnered with the Ministry of Rural Development to promote its Bima Sakhi Yojana in rural areas. The MoU aims to empower women through insurance distribution. Bima Sakhi Yojana offers a performance-based agency career for women, providing stipends and benefits similar to LIC agents.

LIC's Bima Sakhi Yojana is exclusively designed to help women get a strong foothold in the highly lucrative insurance distribution scheme.

Sports

Levon Aronian wins Freestyle Grand Slam Tour Las Vegas

Armenian chess grandmaster Levon Aronian has won the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam in Las Vegas by defeating Hans Niemann in the final, securing his first title and the \$200,000 top prize. Magnus Carlsen beat Hikaru Nakamura to finish third and maintain his lead in the overall tour standings. Fabiano Caruana and Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu claimed the fifth and seventh place.

India beat England by 13 runs in third ODI to clinch the series 2-1.

In a thrilling conclusion to the three-match Women's One Day International Cricket series, India defeated England by 13 runs in the final game at Chester-le-Street, sealing the series 2-1. Batting first after winning the toss, the Indian team posted a total of 318 for 5 in their allotted 50 overs. In response, England fell short, finishing 13 runs behind India's total. England women scored 305 in 49.5 overs.