

International

Sudan's army leader appoints former UN official Kamil Idris as PM

Sudan's army chief and de facto head of state, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has appointed former United Nations official Kamil Idris as the Prime Minister, as the country's civil war grinds on into its third year. Idris, a career diplomat, spent decades at the UN's World Intellectual Property Organisation and was its director general from 1997 to 2008.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed, critical infrastructure has been destroyed and more than 12 million people have been displaced as a result of the conflict between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

UK signs deal to hand over Chagos Islands to Mauritius.

The United Kingdom has signed an agreement on handing sovereignty over the contested and strategically located Chagos Islands to Mauritius. Under the agreement, the United Kingdom will pay Mauritius 136 million dollars per year to lease back the base for at least 99 years. The Indian Ocean archipelago is home to a strategically important naval and bomber base on the largest of the islands, Diego Garcia.

The Chagos Islands, officially known as the British Indian Ocean Territory, are located in the Indian Ocean about 9,332 km south-east of the UK. The Chagos Archipelago – a group of seven atolls with a population of just over four thousand, was separated from Mauritius in 1965, when Mauritius was still a British colony.

US Launches nuclear-capable Minuteman III.

The US Air Force launched a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), Minuteman III, in a doomsday missile test. The missile was unarmed when it was launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The missile flew about 4,200 miles, at a speed of more than 15,000 miles per hour. The Minuteman III nuclear-capable missile is equipped with a single Mark-21 high-fidelity re-entry vehicle - which would typically contain a nuclear payload if it were launched operationally.

India reiterates its commitment towards progress of nations of Indian Ocean during 24th IORA meeting.

The 24th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM), hosted by the IORA Chair Sri Lanka, was held virtually, under the theme: "Sustainable Indian Ocean for future Generation". Secretary (East) in External Affairs Ministry, P. Kumaran, led the Indian delegation at the 24th meeting of IORA COM. During the meeting, the member states held discussions on strengthening IORA, matters of regional interest and adopted the 'Colombo Communiqué'.

India is currently the Vice-Chair of IORA and part of the Troika. India will assume the Chairship of IORA for 2025-2027.

International Day for Biological Diversity 2025 observed on May 22.

Every year May 22nd is celebrated as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), globally to create awareness among the citizens and stakeholders on the importance and need for the conservation of biological diversity. On this date in the year 1992, the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted by the United Nations. The theme for IDB 2025 is 'Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development'.

India is one of the 17 mega-diverse countries in the world covering an area of 329 million hectares.

National

4% reservation for persons with disabilities in allocation of central govt residential accommodations.

The Union government has announced a four percent reservation in the allotment of central government housing to persons with disabilities, marking a substantial move towards equity, dignity, and accessibility in public services. The landmark step was taken by Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal in a move towards inclusive development.

2025 lion census in Gujarat shows 32% population rise.

The latest population estimation exercise in Gujarat has recorded 891 lions, a 32% jump (217 lions) in population since 2020. The census results show 130 adult males, 330 adult females, and 240 cubs. In these five years, lions have also expanded their range by 17% ie from 30,000 to 35,000 sq km — and now cover 58 talukas (up from 53 in 2020) in 11 districts. From under 200 in the 1960s, the population of Asiatic lions has grown to nearly 900 in 2025. Asiatic lions, a distinct sub-species, are found only in Gujarat's Gir National Park and the surrounding districts.

PM Modi inaugurates 103 Amrit Stations across the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 103 Amrit Stations across the country tomorrow. The foundation stone for these works at different stations was laid between August 2023 and February 2024. Out of these Amrit Stations, 19 are located in Uttar Pradesh, 18 in Gujarat, 15 in Maharashtra, 9 in Tamil Nadu and Six in Madhya Pradesh. These Stations have been developed based on the local culture, heritage and architecture.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme launched in December 2022 by the Ministry of Railways aims to transform over 1,300 stations into modern hubs with multimodal integration and future-ready facilities.

iGOT Karmayogi platform crosses mark of 1 cr registered civil servants

The iGOT Karmayogi platform under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building-Mission Karmayogi, has crossed one crore registered civil servants across India. This marks a 30-fold growth from three lakh users onboarded till January 2023, in over two years.

iGOT Karmayogi platform offers over 2400 courses in 16 languages contributed by more than 200 course providers including Central and State Government Ministries and Departments, Civil Services Training Institutes, Civil Society Organisations, philanthropic bodies, premier Indian academic institutions, and private industry experts.

Bihar government renames Gaya city as 'Gaya Jee'.

The Bihar government has approved a proposal to rename Gaya city as 'Gaya Jee'. The renaming aims to boost religious tourism in Gaya, thereby attracting more pilgrims and visitors, strengthening the local economy, and creating livelihood opportunities. Gaya was part of the ancient Magadh Empire, a historically significant kingdom in Indian history.

Business and Economy

Net FDI falls 96% in 2024-25 to \$353 mn, gross FDI remains robust.

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) into India crashed by more than 96% to just \$353 million in 2024-25 as compared to the previous year, the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India shows.

Net FDI is basically gross FDI, which is the total money coming in, minus the money being repatriated out by foreign companies doing business in India and the outward FDI by Indian companies.

Coinbase Global to become first crypto exchange to join S&P 500 index

The US-based cryptocurrency exchange, Coinbase Global has officially joined the S&P 500, marking a historic moment as it became the first cryptocurrency exchange to be listed in the US benchmark index.

The S&P 500 is a market-capitalisation-weighted index that tracks 500 leading publicly traded companies in the US.

TIME 100 Most Influential People in Philanthropy 2025.

TIME magazine has released its 2025 list of the 100 Most Influential People in Philanthropy, spotlighting individuals making significant contributions through charity, funding, and policy reform.

Michael Bloomberg co-founder, CEO, and majority owner of Bloomberg LP is named as 2024's biggest donor by the magazine as he donated \$3.7 billion from his estimated fortune of over \$100 billion in the last one year alone. The list also includes legendary footballer David Beckham, billionaire philanthropist Warren Buffet, American philanthropist

Melinda French Gates and Prince William and Catherine, Princess of Wales.

From India, Indian business tycoon Azim Premji, was recognised in the prestigious 'Titans' category, while Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath earned a spot in the 'Trailblazers' list. Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries featured along with his wife and Reliance Foundation chairperson, Nita Ambani in the TIME 100 Philanthropy list.

SEBI extends ODI framework deadline by FPIs to November 17, 2025

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the compliance deadline for its revised offshore derivative instruments (ODIs) framework. Initially set for May 17, 2025, the deadline will now end on November 17, 2025. The plan is to bring ODI regulations in line with those for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), and reduce the scope for regulatory arbitrage.

ODIs, also known as participatory notes or P-Notes.

Indian Overseas Bank signs MoU with IIBF.

The Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF) for customized e-learning and certification program on MSME. The objective of the MoU is to enhance the knowledge of employees about MSMEs and responds to the credit needs of MSMEs adequately and in a timely fashion.

Creditors realisation stands at over 32.8% till March 2025 under bankruptcy framework: IBBI.

Creditors have realised ₹3.89 lakh crore from resolution plans till March 2025, under India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) enacted in the year 2016.

The realisation is more than 32.8% as against the admitted claims and more than 170.1% as against the liquidation value, insolvency regulator Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) said in its January-March 2025 quarterly newsletter.

Resolution plans on average are yielding 93.41% of fair value of the Corporate Debtors (CDs).

Sports

Football: Tottenham Hotspur wins Europa League.

Tottenham beat Manchester United 1-0 to win the Europa League final and lift its first European trophy in more than four decades. It is the first major title for Tottenham since it won the English League Cup in 2008, and its first European triumph since it won its second UEFA Cup — the equivalent of the Europa League now — in 1984.

Shooter Kanak wins India's first gold medal at Junior World Cup in Germany.

Shooter Kanak has won India's first gold medal at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. Kanak scored 239 in the Women's 10 metre Air Pistol final to claim the yellow metal.