

International

India joins Eurodrone as observer.

India has officially joined the Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (MALE RPAS) or Eurodrone programme, as an observer state. Eurodrone is managed by the Bonn-based Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR) and led by Taufkirchen-based aerospace company Airbus Defence and Space.

Eurodrone is a four-nation initiative involving Germany, France, Italy, and Spain.

The Eurodrone is designed to carry-out various long endurance missions ranging from Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) and attack to, for example, maritime surveillance, anti-submarine warfare and airborne early warning missions in the future.

Thailand becomes first Southeast Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage.

Thailand has taken a significant step toward equality by legalizing same-sex marriage on January 23, 2025. This decision makes Thailand the first country in Southeast Asia to recognize marriage equality, joining Taiwan and Nepal as the third nation in Asia to pass such legislation. The Marriage Equality Act brings major legal reforms, including a shift in the Thai Civil Code. Gender-specific terms like "husband" and "wife" have been replaced with inclusive language such as "individuals" and "partners."

US Federal judge temporarily blocks Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship.

A federal judge in Seattle has temporarily blocked an executive order by President Donald Trump that sought to curtail birthright citizenship in the United States. The ruling came after US District Judge John Coughenour granted a temporary restraining order, halting enforcement of the policy for 14 days while the court considers a preliminary injunction.

The order, signed by Trump on his first day back in office, directs federal agencies to deny citizenship to children born in the US if neither parent is a citizen or legal permanent resident.

National

Anuja nominated for Best Short film category of Oscars 2025.

Indian short film Anuja has secured a nomination in the Best Short Film (Live Action) category for

the Oscars 2025. Anuja is directed by Adam J. Graves and Suchitra Mattai. Anuja follows a nine-year-old girl who, alongside her sister Palak, faces a life-changing opportunity that tests their bond and mirrors the struggles of girls worldwide.

The other short films to make it to the final nominations list are A Lien, The Last Ranger, I'm Not a Robot, and The Man Who Could Not Remain Silent.

Bhuj Water Systems and Hyderabad's Musi River Buildings join 2025 World Monuments Watch List

Bhuj's historic water systems and Hyderabad's Musi River Historic Buildings have secured a coveted place on the 2025 World Monuments Watch list. These remarkable sites, chosen by the World Monuments Fund (WMF), now urgently need preservation due to environmental pressures and rapid urban development.

In Gujarat's Kutch district, the historic water systems of Bhuj, including the iconic Hamirsar Lake, showcase ancient water management techniques.

Hyderabad's Musi River corridor, a hub of rich culture and history, is now battling pollution and ecological degradation. The historic buildings along the Musi River banks are at risk, threatened by both environmental decline and rapid urbanization.

India to deploy 1st human-operated underwater submersible.

India is gearing up to deploy its first human-operated underwater submersible as part of the Deep Ocean Mission. Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the submersible, designed for a depth of up to 500 meters, is expected to launch this year, with plans to extend its reach to 6,000 meters by next year. The Deep Ocean Mission aims to explore underwater resources, improve knowledge of deep-sea ecosystems, and advance India's blue economy. The mission's objectives include identifying critical minerals, rare metals, and undiscovered marine biodiversity, which have economic and environmental implications.

Kerala launches 'KaWaCHaM' for real-time alerts in disaster-prone areas.

The Kerala Warnings, Crisis and Hazard Management system (KaWaCHaM), the disaster risk warning system, developed by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) with the support of the National Disaster

Management Authority and the World Bank, was launched by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The entire system includes a network of 126 siren-strobe light units, 93 emergency operation centres connected via VPN, decision support software, and a large data centre. The system will provide timely alerts related to extreme weather events, such as heavy rain, strong winds, and sea surge to the public through the network of the “KaWaCHaM” warning sirens, developed as part of the National Cyclone Mitigation Plan.

National Girl Child Day 2025 observed on Jan.24.

National Girl Child Day is being celebrated across the nation on 24th January, with a focus on raising awareness about the rights, education, health, and safety of girls in society. The day also marks the anniversary of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22nd January 2015. The theme for National Girl Child Day 2025 is “Empowering Girls for a Bright Future.”

Business and Economy

Walmart announces strategic pilots with India-based startups.

America's mega retail chain Walmart has announced strategic pilots with India-based startups to provide solutions for its U.S. supply chain and sourcing operations. The three startups selected for pilot programmes include Pune-based KBKols Sciences, Chennai-based GreenPod Labs, and Bengaluru-based Cropin.

Tata Group is the 2025 most valuable brand in India, Apple most valued in the world: Brand Finance.

According to a new report from global brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance, Tata Group has maintained its position as the leading Indian brand in the Global 500 and ranked at 60 with its brand value up 10% to \$31.6 billion. Tata preserved its AAA- brand strength rating. LIC emerged as the fastest-growing Indian brand, achieving a 36 per cent growth in its brand value to \$13.3 billion while preserving its AAA brand strength rating. Infosys, ranked at the 132 with a brand value of \$16.3 billion has been recognised as the world's third most valuable IT Services brand for the fourth consecutive year. HDFC (\$14.2 billion), SBI (\$9.6 billion), and ICIC (\$6.4 billion) have all made notable entries into the global ranking this year,

Globally, Apple leads with Microsoft following.

Digital economy to constitute fifth of Indian GDP by 2030: ICRIER report.

India's digital economy will grow twice as fast as the rest of the economy, and constitute 13.42% of national income by the end of 2024–25, as against 11.74% in 2022–23, according to a report prepared by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) based on a study by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

By 2030, the report says, India's digital economy will account for nearly a fifth of overall GDP. This is the first such attempt by the government to quantify the size of India's digital economy.

Sports

Khelo India Winter Games begins

The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig. (Dr.) B. D Mishra kickstarted the opening ceremony of the 5th edition of Khelo India Winter Games at NDS Ice Hockey Stadium Leh. More than 400 athletes from across the country are participating in the Khelo India events in two categories Ice Hockey and Ice Skating. The second leg of Khelo India will be held in the famous Ski Resort Gulmarg of Jammu Kashmir in February this year.

Australian Open 2025: Novak Djokovic retires injured as Alexander Zverev reaches final.

Alexander Zverev advanced to the Australian Open 2025 final after Novak Djokovic retired during their semifinal match at the Rod Laver Arena. After losing the first set 7-6, the 10-time Australian Open champion shook hands with his opponent.

In women's event, Madison Keys stunned World No. 2 Iga Swiatek 5-7, 6-1, 7-6(8) to reach her second Grand Slam final.

Inaugural edition of World Pickleball League to begin in Mumbai

The inaugural edition of the World Pickleball League (WPBL) will kick off at the CCI in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The 10-day-long franchise-based league will feature a total of six teams including Mumbai Pickle Power, Hyderabad Superstars, Pune United, Chennai Superchamps, Dilli Dilwale, and Bengaluru Jawans. The opening match of the league will be played between Mumbai Pickle Power and Pune United.