

International

India Re-elected as Vice-Chairperson of the COP10 Bureau for the International Anti-Doping Convention

India has been re-elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) Bureau to the International Convention against Doping in Sport. This decision was taken during the 10th Session of the COP10 held in Paris. The conference also marked the 20th anniversary of the anti-doping convention, which is a legally binding international instrument committed to promoting integrity and eliminating doping in sport globally.

PM Narendra Modi to Join 47th ASEAN Summit Virtually

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that he will join the ASEAN Summit virtually. Mr Modi said that he held a conversation with his Malaysian counterpart, Anwar Ibrahim and congratulated him on Malaysia assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship. The 47th ASEAN Summit, along with other summits, will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 26 to 28 of this month.

Belarusian and Georgian Journalists Win the EU's 2025 Sakharov Freedom Prize

Imprisoned journalists Andrzej Poczobut of Belarus and Mzia Amaghlobeli of Georgia have been awarded the European Union's 2025 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

Andrzej Poczobut is a correspondent for the influential Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza. He was convicted of "harming Belarus' national security" and sentenced to eight years, which he is serving in the Novopolotsk penal colony.

Mzia Amaghlobeli, a prominent journalist who founded two of Georgia's independent media outlets, was convicted in August of slapping a police officer during an anti-government protest.

US Imposes New Sanctions on Russia's Top Oil Firms

The United States has announced new sanctions against Russia's two largest oil companies – Rosneft and Lukoil – in an effort to pressure Moscow to negotiate a peace deal in Ukraine.

Earlier this year, the UK and US also sanctioned major Russian energy companies Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegas.

India Rises to 9th Position Globally in Total Forest Area: FAO Report

India has achieved a significant milestone in global environmental conservation, moving up to the 9th position in terms of total forest area globally. It was revealed in the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, released by the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Bali, Indonesia. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has said that this achievement marks an improvement from the 10th position in the previous assessment.

Russia (832.6 million hectares) had the highest forest area globally, followed by Brazil (486 million hectares), Canada (368.8 million ha), and the US (308.9 million ha). Other countries ahead of India were China (227 million ha), the Democratic Republic of Congo (139 million ha), Australia (133.5 million ha) and Indonesia (95.9 million ha).

Indian-Origin Historian Sunil Amrith Wins British Academy Book Prize

'The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years' by Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith has been named the winner of this year's British Academy Book Prize, a prestigious 25,000-pound award that celebrates the world's best works of non-fiction.

Amrith, a Professor of History at Yale University in the U.S., was born in Kenya to South Indian parents, grew up in Singapore and graduated from the University of Cambridge in England.

National

DAC Clears ₹79,000 Crore Proposals to Boost Armed Forces Capability

The Defence Acquisition Council, under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has cleared proposals worth nearly 79 thousand crore rupees to enhance the capability of the Armed Forces. For the Indian Army, Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was accorded for the procurement of Nag Missile System (Tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS), Ground Based Mobile ELINT System (GBMES) and High

Mobility Vehicles (HMs) with Material Handling Crane.

ESTIC 2025 to Showcase Emerging Science, Technology, and AI Innovations in New Delhi

Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025 will be organised from 3rd to 5th November, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. In this regard, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has conducted a curtain event in New Delhi.

The conclave, being organised by the Department of Science and Technology, will showcase cutting-edge developments that will shape India's innovation-led growth, driving forward the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Ajay Kumar Sood launched 'AI Playbooks for Agriculture and SMEs' and 'AI Sandbox White Paper'

Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, released three publications under the AI for India 2030 initiative led by the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) India, World Economic Forum (WEF).

'Future Farming in India: AI Playbook for Agriculture'

'Transforming Small Businesses: An AI Playbook for India's SMEs'

'Shaping the AI Sandbox Ecosystem for the Intelligent Age: White Paper'.

Launched under the guidance of OPISA and MeitY, and driven by a multi-stakeholder Advisory Council, the AI for India 2030 initiative aims to develop frameworks with strategic and global relevance, placing responsible, inclusive, and scale-driven AI at the heart of India's digital economy.

Coal India, IIT Madras Sign MoU to Set Up Centre for Sustainable Energy

Coal India Limited (CIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to establish the Centre for Sustainable Energy. The Ministry of Coal said that the Centre will focus on cutting-edge research and development in sustainable energy, with goals to develop low-carbon technologies, repurpose

coal mines, and create innovative solutions to support India's clean energy transition.

ISRO Pioneer Eknath Chitnis Passes Away

Veteran space scientist and Padma Bhushan awardee Professor Eknath Vasant Chitnis, one of the earliest architects of India's space programme, passed away at the age of 100. A close associate of Dr Vikram Sarabhai, Chitnis was instrumental in shaping the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), which evolved into today's Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

One of his landmark contributions was leading the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) in 1975–76, which used NASA's ATS-6 satellite to beam educational programmes to 2,400 remote villages across India.

Former Union Minister and Congress leader Yogendra Makwana dies

Former Union minister and Congress leader Yogendra Makwana passed away in Ahmedabad due to age-related issues at the age of 92. Makwana had served as a Rajya Sabha member from 1973 to 1989. Makwana was a member of the Union cabinet under Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi between 1980 and 1988. He handled portfolios including Home Affairs, Planning, Communications, Steel and Mines, Health, and Agriculture.

Business and Economy

Banking Laws Amendment Act: Key Nomination Provisions Effective from 1st November

The key provisions related to nomination under the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025, will come into effect from 1st November 2025. The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025, was notified on 15th April 2025. It contains a total of 19 amendments across five legislations—the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, Banking Regulation Act, 1949, State Bank of India Act, 1955 and Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980.

The provisions will give depositors the flexibility to make nominations as per their preference, allowing customers to nominate up to four persons, simplifying claim settlement for depositors and their nominees. Customers may nominate up to four persons, either simultaneously or successively, thereby simplifying claim settlement for depositors and their nominees.

The Act aims to strengthen governance standards in the banking sector, ensure uniformity in reporting by banks to the Reserve Bank of India, and enhance depositor protection and improve audit quality in public sector banks.

Digital Payments Account For 99.8% of Transactions: RBI

According to a Reserve Bank report, digital payment transactions accounted for 99.7 per cent in terms of volume and 97.5 per cent in value in the payments system during calendar year 2024, and the trend continued in the first half of 2025. Digital payment systems include NEFT, IMPS, RTGS, NACH, debit and credit cards, prepaid payment instruments, and UPI.

In terms of volume, the payment transactions grew from 3,248 crore in CY 2019 to 20,849 crore in CY 2024, and in terms of value, they rose from Rs 1,775 lakh crore to Rs 2,830 lakh crore during this period.

In terms of volume, UPI (Unified Payments Interface) accounted for the largest share at 85 per cent during the first half of 2025 (H1 2025). On the other hand, during this period, the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system recorded the largest share of 69 per cent in terms of value but accounted for the lowest share of 0.1 per cent in terms of volume. Cheques account for 2.3 per cent of the total transactions in terms of value.

UCO Bank to Add Another 150 Branches by March

State-owned UCO Bank plans to add another 150 branches in the next five months in a bid to expand its presence and business. Currently, the Kolkata-based lender has 3,322 branches across the country and with the addition of 150 branches, the network would rise to 3,472 by the end of the current financial year. The board

has approved the opening of 150 more branches by March, UCO Bank MD & CEO Ashwani Kumar said during a call after approval of the second quarter numbers.

For the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, UCO Bank has reported a 3 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 620 crore against Rs 603 crore in the year-ago period.

SEBI Panel Mulls Higher Fees for Clearing Corporations

A SEBI-constituted working group is proposing to increase transaction charges for clearing corporations like NSE Clearing. This move aims to bolster their financial independence and strengthen their balance sheets, potentially impacting NSE's standalone earnings ahead of its IPO.

Sports

India Enter Women's World Cup Semifinals After 53-Run Win Over New Zealand

In the ICC Women's ODI Cricket World Cup, India entered the semifinals after beating New Zealand by 53 runs at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. Put in to bat first, Indian openers Pratika Rawal and Smriti Mandhana hit brilliant centuries to power India to a massive 340 for 3 in 49 overs in the rain-affected match. Chasing a revised DLS target of 325 from 44 overs, New Zealand managed 271 for 8 in the allotted overs.

Abhinav Bindra Selected as Torchbearer for Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics

Shooter Abhinav Bindra, India's first-ever individual Olympic gold medallist, has been selected as a torchbearer for the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics Torch Relay. Abhinav Bindra won the men's 10m air rifle shooting gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He was also a torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics in France.

The Olympic Torch Relay is a ceremonial journey that precedes both the Summer and Winter Games.