

International

Israeli strikes kill almost 500 in Lebanon, injures 1000.

Israeli strikes on Lebanon have killed more than 490 people, including more than 90 women and children, Lebanese authorities said, in the deadliest barrage since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war. More than 1,000 other people were wounded in the strikes, a staggering one-day toll for a country still reeling from a deadly attack on communication devices last week.

Anura Kumara Dissanayake sworn in as Sri Lanka's 9th Executive President.

Anura Kumara Dissanayake was sworn in as the ninth Executive President, while the cabinet of the new government is expected to take the oath of office. This was Sri Lanka's first election since its economy buckled in 2022 under a severe foreign exchange shortage. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena resigned from office in the wake of the electoral loss of Ranil Wickremasinghe.

10th World FZO Congress begins in Dubai.

The 10th annual World Free Zones Organisation (World FZO) Congress commenced at the Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai. Running from September 23rd to 25th, this year's event brings together leading experts, decision-makers, and stakeholders from the free zones, logistics, and multilateral sectors globally.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the World Free Zones Organisation is hosting the congress in Dubai for the second consecutive year, underscoring the crucial role of economic zones in global trade, through which more than a third of global commerce flows.

National

Laapataa Ladies is India's official entry for Oscars 2025.

Director Kiran Rao's comedy-drama "Laapataa Ladies" has been chosen and submitted as India's official entry for the Oscars 2025 in the Best Foreign Film Category. The film is a slice-of-life comedy about the misadventures of two young brides who become separated on the same train but with different grooms. The film is produced by Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao.

Gujarat's Rhea Singha is Miss Universe India 2024.

Gujarat's Rhea Singha has been crowned Miss Universe India 2024, and will now represent India at the global Miss Universe 2024 pageant. The grand finale of Miss Universe India 2024 was recently held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Centre to install 1 Lakh EV charging stations nationwide by 2030.

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal said that one lakh charging stations for electric vehicles will be installed across the country by 2030. Currently, a total of 34 thousand charging stations are operational in the country. He said the electric vehicle charging infrastructure is being expanded across the country.

The Minister said the government had set a target to provide electricity to one lakh 24 thousand particularly vulnerable tribal households under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN). He said, out of them electricity has been provided to more than 83 thousand houses and the remaining 41 thousand houses will be electrified soon.

Centre to install 1 lakh 4G mobile towers by 2025.

Union Minister for Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia said that the central government has set a target of installing one lakh 4G mobile towers by mid-term of next year. He said, out of the set target, a total of 36 thousand 574 4G mobile towers have already been installed so far.

Mr Scindia added that India has become the fastest 5G rollout nation in the world and around 4.5 lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations have been installed across the country.

Business and Economy

NBFC sector remains resilient under scale-based regulations framework: RBI.

According to the September 2024 edition of the RBI Bulletin, the non-banking financial companies (NBFC) sector in India continues to demonstrate resilience within the scale-based regulations (SBR) framework, improving in asset quality and diversifying its funding base. As per the RBI, gross NPAs in the NBFC sector have declined, and profitability

indicators have improved. The sector remains resilient with double-digit credit growth and adequate capital.

But it has also warned that they need to be watchful of cyber-security and climate risks and proactively identify and manage risks.

KVS Manian takes charge as MD & CEO, Federal Bank.

KVS Manian has taken over as the new Managing Director & CEO of Federal bank effective September 23, 2024. He joins Federal Bank after working for over two-and-a-half decades at Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. An electrical engineer from IIT (BHU) – Varanasi, he holds a postgraduate degree in Financial Management from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies and is a qualified Cost and Works Accountant.

OYO to acquire iconic Motel 6 brand in \$525 million all-cash deal.

Travel tech platform OYO has agreed to acquire iconic American budget hotel chain Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands from Blackstone Real Estate for \$525 million in an all-cash transaction, as the Indian unicorn eyes expansion in the U.S. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2024, subject to customary closing conditions.

Vodafone Idea awards ₹30,000-cr contracts to Nokia, Ericsson, Samsung for 4G, 5G gear supply.

Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea has awarded contracts worth about ₹30,000 crore to Nokia, Ericsson and Samsung for supply of 4G and 5G network equipment for three years. The deal is the first step towards the roll-out of the company's three-year capex (capital expenditure) plan of about \$6.6 billion or ₹55,000 crore announced earlier.

Sports

Badminton: Anmol Kharb wins Polish International 2024.

Indian shuttler Anmol Kharb defeated Switzerland's Milena Schneider 21-12, 21-8 in the final to clinch the Polish International 2024 title in Lublin, Poland. It was Kharb's second consecutive title win after she clinched the Belgian International 2024.

F1: McLaren's Lando Norris wins 2024 Singapore GP.

McLaren's Lando Norris won the 2024 Singapore Grand Prix with ease and cut into Max Verstappen's Formula 1 standings lead. Norris started on pole position ahead of Verstappen and Verstappen came in second for Red Bull.