

(25<sup>th</sup> May 2025)

## International

### US administration lifts sanctions on Syria

The US administration has taken significant steps to lift sanctions on Syria, following President Donald Trump's earlier pledge to assist the war-torn country in its recovery efforts.

The U.S. Treasury Department issued a general license that clears the way for transactions involving Syria's interim government, led by President Ahmed al-Sharaa, as well as its central bank and state-owned enterprises.

European Union diplomats have also agreed to lift economic sanctions on Syria, a move aimed at supporting the country's reconstruction after the ousting of President Bashar al-Assad.

### Trump Signs Executive Orders to Reform U.S. Nuclear Industry

US President Donald Trump has signed executive orders for a reform of the country's nuclear industry. The administration says it will reduce regulatory barriers and speed up construction of nuclear reactors.

The reforms will make it easier for the authorities to approve new nuclear power plant construction.

Approvals have usually taken more than 10 years, but Washington has set an 18-month deadline for the final decision.

The action aims to prepare for a surge in electricity demand due to growing use of AI and other technologies, including quantum computers.

### U.S. to Impose Sanctions on Sudan Over Chemical Weapons Use in Civil War

The United States is set to impose new sanctions on Sudan following a formal determination that the country used chemical weapons during its ongoing civil war in 2024.

These measures include restrictions on U.S. exports to Sudan and limitations on access to government-backed credit.

## Important Days

### World Thyroid Day: 25<sup>th</sup> May

World Thyroid Day is being observed across the globe on 25<sup>th</sup> May to raise awareness about thyroid disorders, promote early diagnosis, and encourage proactive management of thyroid health.

The thyroid is a small, butterfly-shaped gland located at the base of the neck. Though small in size, its role is enormous. It produces hormones that regulate critical functions, including metabolism, heart rate, body temperature, energy levels, menstrual health, and mental well-being.

## National

### CEC Gyanesh Kumar inaugurates National Conference of Counsels representing the ECI

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar inaugurated the National Conference of Counsels representing the Election Commission of India in New Delhi.

This initiative is aimed at strengthening and reorienting the legal framework of the Commission to meet emerging challenges more effectively, by achieving synergy. The conference laid emphasis on being non-adversarial and to offer ample opportunities for hearing.

### Nagshankar Temple in Assam Recognized as Model for Turtle Conservation

Nagshankar Temple, located in the Biswanath district of northeastern Assam, has been declared a model temple for turtle conservation efforts.

In Assam, turtles are traditionally protected in temple ponds, as they are considered sacred and believed to be

(25<sup>th</sup> May 2025)

incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Among these, the turtles at the Nagshankar temple complex, cared for by the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), are regarded as some of the best preserved in the state.

The conservation project at this temple supports 13 different species of freshwater turtles.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Centre approves 8.25% interest rate on EPF deposits for FY 2024-25**

The Centre has approved 8.25 percent interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2024-25.

This will benefit over 7 crore salaried employees across India. This rate was recommended earlier this year by the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

The approved rate remains unchanged from 2023-24 fiscal, while it was 8.15 percent in 2022-23.

### **NTPC Q4 Profit Jumps 22% to ₹7,897 Crore**

State-run power major NTPC reported a 22% year-on-year rise in its consolidated net profit, reaching ₹7,897.14 crore in the fourth quarter of FY25. The profit growth was driven by increased revenue from its power generation segment.

In the same quarter of the previous fiscal (Q4 FY24), NTPC had posted a net profit of ₹6,490.05 crore, the company stated in a regulatory filing.

NTPC's total income rose to ₹51,085.05 crore in the March 2025 quarter, compared to ₹48,816.55 crore in Q4 of FY24. Revenue from the core generation business

alone climbed to ₹49,352.99 crore, up from ₹47,088.70 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

## **Sports**

### **Tennis: Djokovic becomes third to win 100 ATP Singles titles**

Serbian Tennis superstar Novak Djokovic has scripted another history by becoming the third man to reach 100 career ATP Tour titles.

Djokovic defeated Hubert Hurkacz 5-7, 7-6, 7-6 in the Geneva Open final in Switzerland to reach this milestone.

With his victory, Djokovic joined Jimmy Connors and Roger Federer as the only men in the Open Era to win 100 or more titles.

### **ISSF Junior World Cup: Shambhavi clinches Gold in women's 10 mt air rifle event**

In Shooting, India's Shambhavi Shravan Kshirsagar clinched gold medal in the women's 10 meter air rifle event at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 in Suhl, Germany. Ojasvi Thakur bagged silver medal in the same event.

With this, India has jumped to the top of the points table with a total of 8 medals including 2 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals.

### **Shubman Gill becomes Team India's new Test Captain**

Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) has announced the squad for the upcoming test series against England today.

Shubman Gill has been named as Test captain for Team India, while Rishabh Pant has been chosen as vice-captain in Test cricket.