

International

Lassa Fever Death Toll in Nigeria Rises to 172 in 2025

In Nigeria, the death toll from the Lassa fever outbreak has risen to 172 since the beginning of this year. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) said that 924 confirmed cases out of 8,041 suspected cases were reported from January to October this year. The public health agency said poor sanitation, limited awareness in high-burden communities, and delayed treatment continue to exacerbate the outbreak in Africa's most populous nation. The agency further said that the case fatality rate stood at 18.6 per cent.

Lassa fever, also known as Lassa hemorrhagic fever, is a type of viral hemorrhagic fever caused by the Lassa virus and transmitted to humans through contact with the urine or feces of infected rodents, specifically the multimammate rat.

Indian-American Paul Kapur Takes Charge as US Assistant Secretary of State for South & Central Asia

Indian-American security expert Paul Kapur was officially sworn in as the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs in the Trump administration. He was among 107 nominees approved by the Senate and will now lead America's diplomatic engagement with key South and Central Asian nations, including India.

National

India to Install 100 Million Smart Electricity Meters, Says Power Minister

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has said that the goal is to install 100 million smart electricity meters across the country, of which 10 million have already been installed. He stated that the installation of smart meters will address consumer complaints. Consumers will be able to control their electricity usage and save electricity.

NHAI to Deploy 3D Survey Vehicles in 23 States for AI-Based Highway Monitoring

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will deploy Network Survey Vehicles (NSV) in 23 states, covering 20,933 km for the collection, processing and analysis of road inventory and pavement condition data of National Highway stretches. The surveys will be carried out using a 3D laser-based NSV system capable of capturing and reporting road defects automatically without any human intervention. The deployment of NSVs will enable NHAI to collect necessary data related to road inventory and pavement condition, including all relevant road defects like surface cracking, potholes and patches.

ISRO Chairman Confirms Gaganyaan G1 Launch Set for December

The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO Chairman Dr V Narayanan has informed that 90 percent of the work on Gaganyaan uncrewed test flight mission G1 is over, and they are set for launch in December first week. Dr Narayanan said that tests on the crew module with escape system, parachute module, communication systems and other subsystems are successful. Vyomamitra humanoid will fly in the uncrewed Gaganyaan mission to low Earth orbit in December. The final crewed mission of Gaganyaan is targeted for the year 2027, when three Indian astronauts will travel to outer space and will be brought back.

India Launches Advanced Fast Patrol Vessels ICG Ship Ajit and Aparajit

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has launched two advanced Fast Patrol Vessels ICG Ship Ajit and ICG Ship Aparajit at Goa Shipyard Limited. These vessels are the seventh and eighth in a series of eight indigenously built Fast Patrol Vessels. These vessels are equipped with superior manoeuvrability and propulsion efficiency. They are capable of multi-mission roles including fisheries protection, coastal patrol, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and search and rescue operations.

Advertising Veteran Piyush Pandey Passes Away

Advertising industry veteran and Padmasri awardee Piyush Pandey passed away in Mumbai, owing to illness. He was 70. Under him, Ogilvy became India's top ad agency and earned a prime position in creativity. He was the first jury President from Asia for the Cannes Lions Festival. His work for brands like Asian Paints ("Har khushi mein rang laaye"), Cadbury ("Kuch Khaas Hai"), Fevicol, and Hutch turned advertisements into cultural touchstones. Under his leadership, Ogilvy India became one of the most awarded agencies in the world. In 2018, his brother Prasoon Pandey and he became the first Asians to receive the Lion of St. Mark-Cannes Lions' lifetime achievement honour for elevating Indian creativity on the global stage.

Governor Devvrat and CM Fadnavis Launch Book 'Modi's Mission' in Mumbai

Governor of Maharashtra Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis have launched a book titled 'Modi's Mission' in Mumbai. The book is authored by renowned lawyer Berjis Desai. The book discusses formative experiences from PM Modi's childhood and youth that have shaped his socioeconomic philosophy and his outlook on governance.

Business and Economy

SBI Receives 'World's Best Consumer Bank 2025' and 'Best Bank in India 2025' Awards from Global Finance

State Bank of India (SBI) received two prestigious accolades from Global Finance, New York at the Global Finance Award Ceremony held during the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings 2025: World's Best Consumer Bank 2025 and Best Bank in India 2025. Ranked the 4th most trustworthy bank in the world by Newsweek, SBI commands a market

share of 27.7 per cent and 19.03 per cent in home loans and auto loans respectively.

SBI has the largest network of 22,980 branches and 62,200 ATMs/ADWMs in India, with more than 76,800 BC outlets. The number of customers using internet banking stands at 14.2 crores.

India's Forex Reserves Jump by \$4.5 Billion to Cross \$702 Billion Mark

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by 4.5 billion dollars to over 702 billion for the week ending October 17, mainly driven by a surge in gold reserves. Held by the Reserve Bank of India as part of the country's foreign exchange reserves, gold reserves surged by 6.2 billion dollars to exceed 108.5 billion dollars for the first time, supported by a sharp rise in global gold prices and increased purchases by the central bank.

Foreign currency assets, which form the largest component of the reserves, declined by 1.7 billion dollars to over 570 billion dollars during the week, influenced by fluctuations in currencies such as the euro, pound, and yen. India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fell by 30 million dollars to 4.62 billion dollars during the same period.

RBI Proposes to Mandate UTI for All OTC Derivative Transactions

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to mandate a Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) for all transactions in OTC markets for rupee interest rate and foreign currency derivatives from the next financial year, beginning April 1. Over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives are financial derivative contracts that are traded directly between two parties rather than on a regulated exchange.

The UTI has been conceived as one of the key data elements identified globally for reporting over-the-counter (OTC) derivative transactions with a view to enabling policymakers to obtain a comprehensive view of the OTC derivatives market.

SBI and Bank of Baroda to Launch Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation

State Bank of India (SBI), along with Bank of Baroda (BoB), will spearhead the creation of a digital payments intelligence platform designed to detect and prevent fraudulent transactions across banks in real time.

All 12 state-run banks will hold equity in the proposed entity, named Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation. This move strengthens risk management amid rising bank frauds.

RBI Proposes New Infrastructure Risk Weights for NBFCs

RBI has proposed revised risk-weight guidelines for non-banking financial companies' infrastructure loans, a move that could lower capital requirements for lenders financing established projects. The Reserve Bank of India issued draft rules that would apply lower risk weights to infrastructure exposures based on project performance and loan repayment history, aligning capital charges more closely with actual credit risk. Under the proposal, NBFCs would apply a 75% risk weight to performing infrastructure loans where projects have completed at least one year of commercial operations and borrowers have repaid 5-10% of the sanctioned amount.

High-quality projects with repayments of at least 10% would qualify for a 50% risk weight, potentially freeing up capital for additional lending.

WazirX to Restart on October 24

The WazirX crypto exchange will restart operations on October 24, 2025, with the news coming over a year after a debilitating security breach of a digital wallet in July 2024 led to

more than \$230 million in losses and a months-long restructuring exercise in Singapore.

Sports

U-23 Wrestling World Championships: Vishvajit More Wins Bronze

In the Under-23 Wrestling World Championship, Indian Greco-Roman wrestler Vishvajit More won the bronze medal in the 55 kg category after a hard-fought 5-4 win over Kazakhstan's Yerassyl Mmayrbekov in Novi Sad, Serbia. With this win, Vishvajit More opened India's medal account at this edition of the Championship.

Twenty-nine Indian wrestlers are competing at the Under-23 World Wrestling Championships 2025 in Serbia, till the 27th of October.

SAAF Senior Athletics, Ranchi: India Bags 14 Medals

Hosts India won a total of fourteen medals including five gold, six silver and three bronze on the opening day of the 4th South Asian Athletics Federation (SAAF) Senior Athletics Championships in Ranchi. The games got off to a spectacular start at the Birsu Munda Football Stadium in Morabadi.

Asian Youth Games 2025: India Wins Double Gold in Kabaddi

India completed a dominant kabaddi double at the 2025 Asian Youth Games in Bahrain, with both Under-18 teams winning gold while remaining unbeaten. The girls' team crushed Iran 75-21 in the final – the largest victory margin in a Youth Games kabaddi final since 2013.

The boys' team edged Iran 35-32 in a tense final, holding their nerve in the closing minutes to secure the title.