

International

Thailand king signs same-sex marriage bill into law.

Thailand's king Maha Vajiralongkorn has signed a marriage equality bill into law, making the country the first in South East Asia to recognise same-sex unions. The new law uses gender-neutral terms in place of "husbands", "wives", "men" and "women". And it grants same-sex couples adoption and inheritance rights. The bill cleared the Senate in June but required royal endorsement to become law.

Harini Amarasuriya took oath as Sri Lanka PM.

Harini Amarasuriya took oath as the 16th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Harini Amarasuriya, a leader of the National People's Power (NPP), was administered the oath of office by the island nation's new President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in the capital Colombo. Amarasuriya is the first woman to hold the office since Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 2000.

Death toll in Israel's airstrikes on Lebanon rises to 558.

The death toll in Israel's strikes on the strongholds of Hezbollah, across Lebanon has risen to 558. According to the Lebanese Health Ministry, 1,835 people have been wounded in the strike which began yesterday during which Israel and Hezbollah exchanged heavy fire. Meanwhile, the world leaders and the United Nations called for urgent de-escalation.

Albania plans Sufi muslim microstate within its borders.

Albania plans to establish a sovereign Muslim microstate within its borders run by a Sufi sect known for promoting "religious harmony and dialogue", Prime Minister Edi Rama announced. The tiny Vatican-like enclave within Albania's capital Tirana will serve as the political home for Bektashi Muslims — the fourth largest religious community in Albania after Sunni Muslims, orthodox Christians and Catholics.

National

India to get first national security semiconductor fabrication plant.

Under a transformative collaboration with the U.S., India will get its first-ever national security semiconductor fabrication plant that will produce chips for use in military hardware in both the countries as well as in critical telecommunication networks and electronics. The ambitious India-U.S. joint project was announced following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden in Wilmington on September 21, 2024.

AIIMS Delhi sign MoU with tech company to establish centre for robotic-assisted surgery.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, and a technology company, Intuitive, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish an innovative new training centre for robotic-assisted surgery. The AIIMS da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery training centre will focus on equipping surgeons and care teams with the skills and technology to perform robotic-assisted surgery across specialities, including urology, gynaecology, general surgery, and more.

Supreme Court directs states, UTs to implement Centre's guidelines for child safety in schools.

The Supreme Court of India has directed states and union territories to implement the 'Centre's guidelines on safety and security of children in schools'. The Apex Court also asked the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to coordinate with states and union territories (UTs) and monitor the implementation of the guidelines. The Centre had issued the 'Guidelines on School Safety and Security' in October 2021, prepared by an expert committee following a Supreme Court's order. The Centre issued the guidelines fixing accountability of schools in case of safety of children, and the non-compliance may attract fines and even take away the recognition of the schools.

Business and Economy

S&P retains India FY25 GDP growth view at 6.8%.

The global credit ratings agency S&P Global Ratings has retained its economic growth projection for India at 6.8% for 2024-25 and 6.9% next year. S&P expects inflation to average 4.5 per cent in the current financial year. It also expressed optimism that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would start cutting interest rates in its October monetary policy review.

India's unemployment rate stagnated at 3.2 per cent in July-June 2023-24: NSO.

According to the latest annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report, released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's unemployment rate stagnated at 3.2 per cent in July-June 2023-24. The unemployment rate in rural areas slightly increased to 2.5 per cent in 2023-24 from 2.4 per cent in 2022-23. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in urban areas declined to 5.1 per cent from 5.4 per cent during the period.

This stagnation comes amid a swelling labour force in both urban and rural areas, meaning that the economy was not able to generate a commensurate number of jobs during the year.

Nirmala Sitharaman to attend AIIB annual meet in Uzbekistan.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the 9th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) scheduled in Samarkand, and hold bilateral meetings with her counterparts from Uzbekistan, Qatar, China, and AIIB President. The Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB is scheduled on September 25 and 26.

Individual traders face severe losses in Equity F&O Segment: SEBI

A study conducted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India has revealed that individual traders continue to incur severe losses in the equity futures and options (F&O)

segment while proprietary traders and Foreign Portfolio Investors have succeeded in booking profits. The aggregate losses of individual traders exceeded 1.8 lakh crore rupees over this period.

Proprietary traders and Foreign Portfolio Investors earned gross trading profits of 33 thousand crore rupees and 28 thousand crore rupees respectively in the financial year 2023-24.

Bank of Baroda, EaseMyTrip.com launch co-branded travel debit card.

Bank of Baroda, in collaboration with EaseMyTrip.com, has introduced a 'Bank of Baroda EaseMyTrip Co-branded Travel Debit Card', targeting frequent travellers and those spending on entertainment and lifestyle. This is the first co-branded travel debit card to be launched by a public sector bank.

City Union Bank launches eight payment products at Global Fintech Fest 2024.

City Union Bank (CUB) has unveiled a suite of new innovative payment products and solutions for MSMEs and retail customers, at the fifth edition of Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2024 in Mumbai.

The digital products were Delegate payments, UPI lite auto topup, National Common Mobility Card, Credit line on UPI, Rupay credit card on UPI, Loan against securities (Mutual Fund), Open Network Digital Commerce – MSME, and Open Network Digital Commerce – Retail.

Sports

Laver Cup 2024: Team Europe claims victory over Team World.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz, overcame Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5 as Team Europe rallied to beat Team World 13-11 and win the Laver Cup. Alcaraz broke the U.S. Open runner-up Fritz in the 11th game and then closed out victory on serve. Team World was the favourite to win the Laver Cup for a third

straight time after leading 8-4 on points heading into the last of the three days.

MotoGP: Bastianini wins Emilia-Romagna.

Enea Bastianini won the Emilia-Romagna MotoGP as Jorge Martin extended his lead in the championship standings thanks to key title rival Francesco Bagnaia crashing out.

Meanwhile, Ducati secured its fifth consecutive Constructors' World Championship after the Emilia-Romagna GP, courtesy of an all-Ducati top five.

Indonesia Para-Badminton International 2024: Sukant, Sivarajan win silver.

India's Sukant Kadam lost to local favourite Fredy Setiawan in the men's singles SL4 final to clinch silver at the Indonesia Para-Badminton International 2024.

Fellow Paralympian Sivarajan Solaimalai also won silver in the men's singles SH6 category after falling to another local in Subhan with a scoreline of 19-21, 15-21.