

International

UNDP joins Global Network to help countries cope with climate change impacts.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has announced its membership in the Santiago Network, a global initiative that connects technical experts and organizations dedicated to helping vulnerable countries and communities confront the irreversible impacts of loss and damage due to climate change. UNDP's membership in the Santiago Network will strengthen support for communities facing unavoidable climate change consequences.

Established in 2019, the Santiago Network brings together organizations, networks, and experts to facilitate the implementation of solutions that avert, minimize, and address loss and damage caused by climate change, with a focus on developing and vulnerable countries. Its secretariat is co-hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Geneva.

Indian Army, Royal Saudi Land Forces discuss joint exercises & defence cooperation.

The inaugural Army-to-Army Staff Talks between the Indian Army and the Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF) were held in New Delhi. The discussions focused on the Annual Defence Cooperation Plan covering Joint Exercise Sada Tanseeq, training, military education, domain expert exchanges and engagements in areas of mutual interest. Both sides also explored avenues of collaboration in operational logistics, battlefield management systems and niche technologies to enhance interoperability and capability development.

Payal Kapadia receives French honour Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

India's Director Payal Kapadia has been felicitated with the prestigious French civilian honour, Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, for her contribution to cinema. She was conferred with the Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by Jean-Marc Sere-Charlet, Consul General of France in Mumbai, on behalf of the French government. Kapadia's feature directorial debut All We Imagine As Light, an Indo-French co-production, won the prestigious Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival last year.

THE Asia University Rankings 2025: IISc bags top spot in India

The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the Asia University Rankings 2025, featuring some of the top educational institutes of the region. Indian Institute of Science or IISc has emerged as the top Indian education institute among its national counterparts, followed by Anna University that is placed in the second spot. IISc has secured a THE Ranking of 38 and an overall score of 65.2.

National

India sends medical aid worth \$2 million to Nepal.

India has sent medicines and vaccines for patients with Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease worth two million dollars to Nepal. The first tranche of over 17 thousand vials of Vaccines for Immunization of patients with Thalassemia was handed over to Nepal on its request.

DRDO achieves major milestone in Scramjet Engine Development.

DRDO has achieved a significant milestone in Scramjet Engine Development by conducting Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor ground testing for over 1,000 seconds. The ground test is in continuation of the earlier test reported for 120 seconds in January. With the successful test, the system will be soon ready for full scale flight worthy combustor testing.

Akashvani wins six awards at India Audio Summit and Awards 2025.

Akashvani has won a total of six awards in various categories at the India Audio Summit and Awards 2025. The third edition of the awards, which recognise excellence in radio and audio content production, was held in Mumbai.

Former Union Minister Smriti Irani's programme 'Nai Soch Nai Kahani – A Radio Journey with Smriti Irani' was named Series of the Year on radio.

The News Services Division's popular weekly phone-in show, Public Speak, was recognised as the Best Produced Audio Streaming Programme in the Health and Fitness category. Other award-winning programmes include 'Chhayageet', which won in the Best Late Night Show category; 'Ujale Unki Yadon Ke', named Best Celebrity Show on Air; and 'Safarcast', which clinched the award for Best Travel Show.

Similipal becomes India's 107th national park, largest in Odisha.

Similipal has been accorded national park status, with a formal notification issued by the Odisha government. An area of 845.70 sq km spread across 11 ranges of Similipal south and Similipal north divisions was declared as a national park, making it the second protected area to be declared a national park after Bhitarkanika in the state. Similipal is now the 107th national park in the country.

Similipal, the state's biggest tiger reserve, has 55 species of mammals, 361 species of birds, 62 species of reptiles and 21 species of amphibians.

Former ISRO Chairman Dr. K Kasturirangan passes away.

Former ISRO Chairman and a key architect of India's National Education Policy, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, passed away. As Chairman of ISRO, Dr. Kasturirangan played a pivotal role in the development of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which went on to become India's most reliable satellite launcher. He led the Indian Space Programme for over nine years before stepping down on August 27, 2003.

Dr. Kasturirangan also served as the Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University and Chairman of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission and was the Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bengaluru. He was also a Rajya Sabha member from 2003 to 2009.

Business and Economy

Sunil Bharti Mittal joins World Bank's pvt sector investment lab initiative.

Bharti Enterprises Chairperson Sunil Bharti Mittal has joined the World Bank's Private Sector Investment Lab (PSIL) initiative. The World Bank Group announced the launch of the next phase of PSIL. This will expand the Lab's membership to include industry leaders with experience generating jobs in developing economies, aligning directly with the Bank's sharpened focus on job creation as a core driver of development.

The membership of the Lab has been increased to include private sector leaders in sectors critical to job creation—such as infrastructure and energy, agribusiness, healthcare, tourism, and manufacturing.

Over 86,000 AI patents filed during 2010-2025: Nasscom.

Some 86,000 AI Patents were filed in India during 2010-2025, accounting for over 25% of all tech patents filed in the country during this period, said Nasscom.

The country's pace of innovation has accelerated dramatically, with the number of AI patents filed between 2021 and 2025 being seven times higher than those filed between 2010 and 2015. Notably, 63% of these AI patents originated in India, while 17% were first filed in the United States.

Bank of Maharashtra standalone net profit up 22.6% on higher NII in Q4FY25.

Bank of Maharashtra's standalone net profit increased 22.6% to ₹1,493 crore on increase in net interest income in the quarter ended March 31, 2025. This number was ₹1,218 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal.

The net interest income increased 20.6% to ₹3,116 crore in the quarter under review as against ₹2,584 crore in the year-ago period. Gross advances increased 17.8% to ₹2,39,837 crore while gross deposits grew at a slower pace of 13.44% , coming in at ₹3,07,143 crore.

IAS Jitendra Srivastava takes over as REC chief.

Jitendra Srivastava, a 2000 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Bihar cadre, took over as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of REC Ltd, the government-owned power finance company . Srivastava succeeds Vivek Kumar Dewangan, whose tenure at the helm ended last month.

Sports

Avinash Sable, Tejaswin Shankar in Asian Athletics squad

Commonwealth Games medallist Avinash Sable was named in the 59-member Indian squad for the Asian Athletics Championships to be held at Gumi, South Korea, next month. Another notable inclusion in the squad is Tejaswin Shankar, the Asian Games silver medallist in the decathlon.