

International

Axiom-4 mission carrying Indian astronaut launched from Kennedy Space Centre.

Axiom-4 mission, carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla to space, was launched at 12:01 PM IST from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, United States. The Axiom-4 will dock with the International Space Station (ISS) at 4:30 PM IST, about 28 hours after launch. The launch of the Ax-4 mission, which was initially scheduled to take off on May 29, has been repeatedly delayed due to technical issues, weather conditions and leaks on the ISS.

Iran approves bill suspending cooperation with IAEA.

The Iranian Parliament has approved a bill suspending cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The decision followed recent U.S. strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites in Esfahan, Fordow, and Natanz. During an open session of Parliament, lawmakers agreed on the general outline of a plan calling for the suspension of cooperation with the IAEA.

Iran stated that it has every right to protect its sovereignty, interests, and people.

Botswana earns WHO Gold Status for ending HIV infant transmission

Botswana has become the first African country and the first globally with a high HIV burden – to achieve the World Health Organisation’s Gold Tier status for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, marking a milestone in global public health.

Botswana had met rigorous criteria under the UN-led Triple Elimination Initiative that aims to halt vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B.

According to UNAIDS, only 1.2 percent of infants born in Botswana in 2023 contracted HIV, with fewer than 100 total cases recorded.

National

Centre authorizes CDS & Secretary of DMA to issue orders for all three Services.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has authorised the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary

of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to issue joint instructions and orders for all three services. This is a major step towards modernisation and transformation of the Armed Forces. The decision marks a shift from the earlier system wherein instructions and orders related to two or more services were issued by each service separately. The joint order emphasises the need to streamline procedures, eliminate redundancies and enhance cross-service cooperation.

MWCD, MSDE Launches ‘NAVYA’ – for skilling adolescent girls.

Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), in convergence with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), has launched the joint pilot initiative of both the Ministries for Skilling of Adolescent Girls NAVYA – Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh.

NAVYA is a pilot initiative aimed at equipping adolescent girls aged 16–18 years with a minimum qualification of Class 10, with vocational training mainly in non-traditional job roles. This pilot initiative will be implemented in 27 districts of the country which include Aspirational districts and districts of North-eastern States spanning across 19 states.

CBSE to conduct Class 10th Board Exams twice a year from 2026.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that Class 10 board exams will be held in two terms starting from next year. According to the new framework, the initial examination will take place in February, which will be compulsory for all students. Meanwhile, the subsequent examination in May will be optional for those students who seek to enhance their performance. All passed students will be allowed to improve their performance in any of the three subjects out of Science, Mathematics, Social Science and languages. The results for the two phases will be announced in April and June.

Tata Power-DDL, Nissin Electric to install India's first micro substation.

Tata Power-DDL, in collaboration with Japan-based Nissin Electric Co Ltd, has commissioned India's first micro substation with power voltage transformer (PVT) that will provide low-cost and reliable power supply to consumers.

Micro substation with PVT can convert high-voltage power directly from transmission lines to low voltage power, suitable for residential consumers.

World Bank approves \$426 million for Bengaluru Water Security Project.

The World Bank has sanctioned USD 426 million for a new initiative to enhance water security for over four million residents in Bengaluru. The \$426 million Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program will help revive the city's 183 lakes which act as natural sponges during heavy rainfall. The Program will also construct nine sewage water treatment plants (STPs) to prevent the sewage from entering lakes and drains.

The USD 426 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity period of 20 years, with a grace period of five years.

Business and Economy

IMF approves \$1.3 billion of \$4.7 billion loan program for Bangladesh.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has finally approved a \$1.3 billion disbursement of the third and fourth tranches of Bangladesh's \$4.7 billion loan program. The release of these two tranches is expected to provide much-needed support to Bangladesh's economy, which has been grappling with external sector challenges.

The IMF initially approved the \$4.7 billion loan proposal for Bangladesh on January 31, 2023, for a period of three and a half years.

Bharat Biotech to begin supplies of GSK's malaria vaccine RTS,S to GAVI.

Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL) and GSK plc will be supplying world's first malaria vaccine (RTS,S) to global vaccine alliance Gavi for its next vaccine replenishment phase during

2026-2030. In this supply commitment, Bharat Biotech will be reducing the price of the vaccine, developed by GSK, PATH and partners, by more than half, to less than \$5, progressively by 2028. The supply will be in the range of 10 million doses subjected to demand and can be scaled up further based on the requirement.

Adani Group to invest \$15-20 bn across businesses over next 5 years.

The Adani Group plans to invest a record \$15-20 billion across businesses over the next five years to chart out the next phase of growth, Chairman Gautam Adani said.

While addressing the annual general meeting, Gautam Adani touted the conglomerate's strong balance sheet and robust business to shrug off relentless scrutiny it faces.

SEBI proposes revamp of MIIs to boost governance.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed measures to strengthen the governance of market infrastructure institutions (MII) in a consultation paper released on June 24.

The need for review comes in the backdrop of expanding scope of the securities market and the adverse effects slippages in governance in these institutions could have on the broader economy.

NSE offers \$160 million to settle with SEBI, move ahead with IPO.

The National Stock Exchange of India has offered to pay the country's markets regulator SEBI ₹13.88 billion (\$160 million) to settle a legal dispute so it can proceed with a long-delayed initial public offering. The sum is set to be the largest settlement made with the markets regulator in India's history.

EPFO raises auto-settlement limit for advance claims for members to ₹5 lakh

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has enhanced the auto-settlement limit for advance claims from ₹1 lakh at present to ₹5 lakh. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the move would help lakhs of EPFO members to receive funds faster, especially in times of urgent need.

The Minister said the EPFO had first introduced auto-settlement of advance claims during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide quick financial assistance to members. Since then, the facility has been extended to cover advance claims for illness, education, marriage, and housing purposes. These claims are processed automatically by the system without any human involvement, ensuring quick turnaround and transparency.

Nirmala Sitharaman Lauds EXIM Bank's Trade Assistance Programme at Trade Conclave 2025.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has lauded EXIM Bank's pioneering Trade Assistance Programme (TAP) as a critical enabler for Indian exporters to penetrate high-risk markets during the Trade Conclave 2025

hosted by the Export–Import Bank of India (EXIM) on June 24 in New Delhi. EXIM Bank has forged partnerships with over 100 overseas banks, facilitating more than 1,100 export transactions spanning 51 countries .

Sports

U17 Asian Wrestling Championships : Indian Women's team win overall title.

The Indian Under-17 Women's Wrestling Team has emerged as the Champion Team at the Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championships held in Vung Tau, Vietnam. The Indian Women's Team dominated across weight categories, winning a total of 10 medals – 5 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze, thus securing the Champion Trophy with 215 points. China stood second with 151 points.