

International

Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy gets a 5-year jail term.

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy has been sentenced to five years in jail after being found guilty of criminal conspiracy. The case was related to millions of euros of illicit funds from the late Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi. He was accused of using the funds from Gaddafi to finance his 2007 election campaign. In exchange, the prosecution alleged Sarkozy promised to help Gaddafi combat his reputation as an outcast with Western countries.

Trump signs order approving TikTok deal with majority US ownership.

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order approving a deal that could keep TikTok alive in the U.S, easing national security concerns and paving the way for American ownership of the popular app. TikTok's Chinese parent company will retain only a minority stake, while U.S. investors are set to hold about 80 per cent under a new joint venture.

The platform, with 170 million U.S. users, including 15 million Trump followers, has been under pressure since a 2024 law required its parent company to sell or face a ban. Trump has credited the app with helping boost his re-election campaign.

National

India successfully tests the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime Missile from a rail-based Mobile launcher system.

India has carried out the successful launch of the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime Missile from a rail-based Mobile launcher system. This next-generation missile is designed to cover a range of up to 2000 kilometres and is equipped with various advanced features. The first-of-its-kind launch was carried out from a specially designed rail-based Mobile Launcher, which can move on the Rail network without any preconditions, allowing the user to have cross-country mobility and launch within a short reaction time with reduced visibility.

This successful flight test has put India in the group of select nations that have developed canisterised launch systems from the mobile rail network.

Centre approves extension of General Anil Chauhan's tenure as Chief of Defence Staff till May 2026.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of service of General Anil Chauhan as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), who shall also function as Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Military Affairs, up to 30th May 2026, or until further orders. General Chauhan was appointed as the CDS on 28th September 2022.

Nagaland University faculty among world's top 2% Scientists.

Nagaland University, NU, has earned international recognition as four of its faculty members have been named in the prestigious 'World's Top 2 per cent Scientists List'. Compiled by Stanford University and Elsevier, the list recognises researchers with the highest global impact across 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields.

The honoured faculty include Prof. Ambrish Singh from the Department of Chemistry, Prof. Joginder Singh from Botany, Prof. Prabhakar Sharma from Agricultural Engineering and Technology, and Prof. Pranav Kumar Prabhakar from Biotechnology.

Cabinet approves 5,023 MBBS & 5,000 PG Seats in Govt Medical Colleges.

Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the third phase of the centrally sponsored scheme to add 5,023 MBBS seats and 5,000 PG seats in existing government medical colleges and institutes for 15 thousand 34 crore rupees over the next three years. This initiative will significantly augment undergraduate medical capacity, increase the availability of specialist doctors by creating additional postgraduate seats, and enable the introduction of new specialities across Government medical institutions. This will strengthen the overall availability of doctors in the country.

Out of 15 thousand 34 crore rupees, the central share is 10 thousand 303 crore rupees, and the state share is 4731 crore rupees.

Over 2.82 crore houses completed under PMAY-G.

The Central government has stated that more than two crore eighty two lakh houses have been completed under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). The scheme was launched in 2016 to provide 'Housing for All' in rural areas. The scheme also helped eligible rural families with the construction of pucca houses with basic facilities such as a kitchen and toilet.

Department of Food and Public Distribution signs MoU with FCI.

Department of Food and Public Distribution signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Food Corporation of India in New Delhi. According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the MoU aims to set performance parameters and goals to ensure greater efficiency and accountability in food grain management. The agreement will emphasise reducing storage losses, improving the utilisation of warehousing capacity, enhancing logistics and supply chain performance, and strengthening quality control.

Defence Ministry signs deal with HAL for procurement of 97 Tejas jets.

Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the procurement of 97 Light Combat Aircraft Mk1A for the Indian Air Force worth over 62 thousand crore rupees. This includes 68 fighters and 29 twin-seat aircraft, along with associated equipment for the Indian Air Force.

The delivery of these aircraft will commence during 2027-28 and be completed over a period of six years. The aircraft will have an indigenous content of over 64%, with 67 additional items incorporated, over and above the previous Light Combat Aircraft contract signed in January 2021.

The project is being supported by a robust vendor base of nearly 105 Indian companies directly engaged in the manufacture of detailed components.

SC directs Centre to create a dedicated online portal to trace missing children.

The Supreme Court of India has directed the Centre to create a dedicated online portal to trace missing children and monitor investigations in such cases. A Bench comprising Justice BV

Nagarathna and Justice R Mahadevan highlighted the lack of coordination among state and union territory police forces in tracing missing children. The court directed that each state should designate a nodal officer to be in charge of missing complaints and the dissemination of information through the portal.

Business and Economy

Cabinet approves ₹69,725 crore package to revitalise shipbuilding, maritime ecosystem.

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹69,725 crore package to revitalise India's shipbuilding and reduce dependence on foreign ships as part of the government's plan to regain the country's maritime power. The package introduces a four-pillar approach designed to strengthen domestic capacity, improve long-term financing, promote greenfield and brownfield shipyard development, enhance technical capabilities and skilling, and implement legal, taxation, and policy reforms to create a robust maritime infrastructure.

RBI mandates a tougher authentication process for digital transactions.

To further secure digital payment transactions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has mandated the introduction of additional risk-based checks beyond the minimum two-factor authentication by leveraging technological advancements.

To further this, the RBI issued Reserve Bank of India (Authentication Mechanisms for Digital Payment Transactions) Directions, 2025, which will come into force from April 1, 2026.

Outward remittances under LRS dip 11% in July.

Outward remittances by resident individuals under the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) were almost 11% lower year on year in July at \$2452.93 million on the back of a decline towards travel and studies abroad.

In the year-earlier period, the outward remittances stood at \$2754.05 million. For 2024-25, the remittances totalled \$29563.12 million.

KreditVenture NBFC launched to serve MSMEs in tier 2, 3 cities.

Three financial services professionals, Saif Hasan, Jaspreet Singh, and Prajit Chandrasekhar, have come together to launch KreditVenture, a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) dedicated to bridging the credit gap for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India's tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

KreditVenture aims to expand to fifty locations within a year and plans to extend into southern and northern markets soon, strengthening its presence across India's growth corridors.

UPI now accepted in Qatar.

NPCI International Payments Ltd, in partnership with Qatar National Bank, has enabled the acceptance of QR code-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) across Qatar via point-of-sale terminals for merchants acquired by QNB and powered by NETSTARS' payment solution.

This move will enable Indian travellers to make UPI payments seamlessly at major tourist attractions and Qatar Duty Free outlets, which is the first merchant to go live on UPI.

Sports

Indian shooters won five medals at the ISSF Junior World Cup.

In the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025, Indian shooters clinched all three podium spots in the women's 50m prone event at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. Anushka

Thokur won the gold medal in the women's 50m prone rifle shooting event, edging out compatriot Anshik, who got the silver. Aadhyaa Agrawal claimed the bronze medal.

In the men's event, India's Deependra Singh Shekhawat narrowly missed the gold to shooter Kamil Nuriakhmetov, who finished with one point more. Rohit Kanyan won the bronze medal.

India clinches first-ever international Futsal win.

In the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers, India recorded their first-ever international futsal victory as they overpowered Mongolia 3-0 in the last Group A clash at Ardiya. In a sport still taking its initial steps on the national front, this landmark result may well mark a turning point in Indian futsal.

Futsal is a variant of association football played between two teams of five players each on a court smaller than a football pitch

Atiqa becomes the first Indian to crack the COFTA top four.

India's racing prodigy Atiqa Mir came agonisingly close to a historic podium, finishing a superb fourth in Round 4.1 of the Champions of the Future Academy (COFTA) karting series at the Slovakia Karting Centre.

Atiqa Mir is the first Indian to receive support from Formula 1 and is part of the F1 Academy DYD programme, a prestigious initiative aimed at nurturing young racing talent.