

International

India refuses to sign SCO joint statement.

India has refused to sign a joint declaration at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Qingdao, China. India is not satisfied with the language of the joint document and there was no mention of cross-border terrorist activities. It is believed that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's refusal to endorse the document resulted in the conclave ending without a joint communique. As per the SCO Charter, the grouping takes decisions by agreement without a vote, and they are considered to be adopted if no member state raises objections.

India's Defence Minister urged SCO nations to reject double standards and hold terror sponsors accountable.

China holds the Chair of the SCO for 2025 under the theme "Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move."

NATO members agree to spend 5% of their GDPs on defense and security.

All NATO members have agreed to raise defence and security spending to 5 percent of GDP by 2035. In the declaration at the NATO summit in the Hague, the leaders said the defence pledge will consist of investments of at least 3.5 percent of GDP per year in core defence requirements. They also vowed to spend up to 1.5 percent of GDP on security-related expenditures, including protection of critical infrastructure and strengthening the alliance's defence industrial base.

NATO chief Rutte stated that military aid for Ukraine this year will very likely exceed last year's 58 billion dollars.

Bangladesh declares August 8 as 'New Bangladesh Day'.

Bangladesh will observe August 8 as 'New Bangladesh Day' to mark the anniversary of swearing-in of the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus who took

over three days after the fall of Sheikh Hasina government on August 5 last year, following a student-led uprising. The government has also announced August 5 as 'July Uprising Day'.

Global cocaine boom keeps setting new records, UN report says.

As per the annual U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) World Drug Report showed, the global cocaine trade keeps setting new records, with cocaine the world's fastest-growing illicit drug market as Colombia production surges along with users in Europe and North and South America. The estimated number of cocaine users globally also kept growing, reaching 25 million people in 2023, up from 17 million 10 years earlier.

Zohran Mamdani wins New York mayoral post.

A young left-wing candidate, Zohran Mamdani, is poised to become the Democratic nominee for New York mayor after delivering a stunning political upset. The 33-year-old democratic socialist declared victory in the party's primary, defeating his main rival and political veteran Andrew Cuomo who previously served as state governor. If elected, he would be the first Muslim and Indian American to lead the nation's largest city.

The primary in liberal New York is likely to determine who becomes the mayor in November's election.

National

Shubhanshu Shukla becomes 1st Indian to set foot on ISS.

India created history as the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, carrying the Axiom-4 crew, including Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, gently docked with the International Space Station (ISS). With this, India has an astronaut in space after 41 years. Shukla is also the second Indian in space, following Rakesh Sharma's flight in 1984.

This historic mission carries four astronauts from the US, India, Poland, and Hungary to the

ISS for a 14-day scientific expedition in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), docked with the Harmony module's space-facing port.

Cabinet approves RMP for Jharia coalfield, establishment of International Potato Centre at Agra.

The Central government has taken the decision for the extension of Pune Metro Rail Project Phase-II with the cost of three thousand 626 crore rupees. An additional length of 12.75 kilometers will be added as the new metro line with 13 stations. The government has also given its nod for the revised master plan for rehabilitation of Jharia coalfield in Jharkhand. The total financial outlay for the implementation of the revised plan is five thousand 940 crore rupees.

The government has approved the proposal for establishing the International Potato Centre South Asia Regional Centre at Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

Amit Shah releases "The Emergency Diaries", book chronicles PM Modi's role in fight against emergency.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book 'The Emergency Diaries-Years that forged a leader' in New Delhi. The book delves into the compelling role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, then a young RSS Pracharak, played in the fight against Emergency. The book paints a vivid picture of Mr Modi fighting for the ideals of democracy.

Divided into five chapters, this book uncovers how the Emergency influenced young Narendra Modi's understanding of state power, political mobilization and the role of a healthy opposition.

Centre authorizes Aadhaar authentication for IBPS exams to curb impersonation.

The Union government has authorised the use of Aadhaar authentication for candidate verification in examinations conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection – IBPS. In a notification issued by the Department of

Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance, IBPS can now use Aadhaar authentication voluntarily, for verifying the identity of candidates during examinations and recruitment processes conducted by it.

Business and Economy

Govt has provided ₹21,535 crore of incentives under PLI schemes.

The Central government's Production-Linked Incentive scheme has seen the government provide ₹21,534 crore worth of incentives in various sectors, thereby attracting investments worth ₹1.76 lakh crore. The scheme has generated production or sales worth ₹16.5 lakh crore as of March 2025.

The release was issued following a review meeting held by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal of the PLI schemes.

India's FDI inflows jump to 8.8 billion dollars in April.

Gross foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India surged to 8.8 billion dollars in April this year, higher than 5.9 billion dollars in March and 7.2 billion dollars in April 2024. Manufacturing and business services accounted for nearly half of the gross FDI inflows in April this year.

India ranked 16th globally in FDI inflows and recorded 114 billion dollars in greenfield investment in digital economy sectors over the last five years (2020-2024), the highest among all countries in the Global South.

Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded net inflows of 1.7 billion dollars in May 2025, driven by the equity segment. Telecommunication, services, and capital goods emerged as the top recipient sectors.

Nvidia climbs to record high to become world's largest stock again amid AI optimism.

Nvidia has become the most valuable company in the world after a sharp rise in its share price on June 26, 2025. The chipmaker's stock went up by over 4%, taking its total market value to

about \$3.763 trillion. This helped Nvidia move ahead of Microsoft, which is now the second-most valuable firm globally with a market value of \$3.658 trillion.

Nvidia's shares touched a new record high of \$154.10, after climbing 4.33% during the trading session.

Sports

2nd Asian Squash Doubles Championships: India claims all 3 titles.

India showed its authority at the 2nd Asian Squash Doubles Championships with a commanding performance, winning all three titles, men's, women's, and mixed doubles events. In the men's doubles final, Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar defeated Pakistan's Noor Zaman and Nasir Iqbal 2-1 in an intense match. The women's doubles title was secured

by the second-seeded pair of Joshna Chinappa and Anahat Singh.

India's mixed doubles team of Abhay and Anahat put a dominant 2-0 victory over Malaysia's Rachel Arnold and Ameeshenraj Chandaran in the final.

Khelo India University Games 2025 to Be Held in November in Jaipur.

The Khelo India University Games 2025 will be held in November this year in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said that more than 4 thousand athletes are expected to feature from more than 200 Universities this year, competing across 20 disciplines.

He mentioned that the University Games are for under-25 athletes and will be coming after the under-18 Khelo India Youth Games that took place in Bihar in May this year.