

International

Thailand: No confidence motion against PM Shinawatra voted down.

Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra had survived a no-confidence vote that confirmed the strength of her coalition in Parliament. The no-confidence motion was voted down by 319 to 162, with seven abstaining. Shinawatra, had been accused by the opposition of being controlled by her father, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. She was also accused of avoiding taxes and of involvement in the recent repatriation of some Uyghurs to China last month.

US President orders major overhaul of American elections.

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order mandating sweeping changes to the US election process. The changes require documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration and ensuring that all ballots are received by election day.

This action aligns with Trump's persistent claims of election irregularities and fraud, especially regarding mail-in voting.

South Korea: 24 dead, 26 injured in multiple wildfires.

In South Korea, at least 24 people have been killed as multiple wildfires continue to ravage the country's southeastern region. Authorities said 26 people were injured, with 12 in critical condition. The deadly wildfires have forced more than twenty-three thousand people to flee their homes.

About 17,000 hectares of forest have also been destroyed, making these fires the third largest in South Korea's history in terms of area.

National

India develops first indigenous MRI machine.

India has developed its first indigenous Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine, set to be installed at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, by October for trials.

The move aims to reduce treatment costs and reliance on imported medical devices, as 80-85 percent of equipment is currently imported. The

indigenous MRI machine will help make India more self-reliant in medical technology

India, Singapore sign LoI for Green & Digital Shipping Corridor.

India and Singapore have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for a Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC), with a focus on digitalisation and decarbonisation. The Singapore-India Green and Digital Shipping Corridor, will enhance collaboration between both countries and help accelerate the development and uptake of zero or near-zero GHG emission technologies and the adoption of digital solutions.

DX-EDGE aims to foster collaboration between public, private & academic sectors.

NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has launched DX-EDGE, which stands for Digital Excellence for Growth and Enterprise'. It is a national initiative to create an ecosystem connecting Medium Small and Micro Enterprises-MSMEs, technology providers, and academic institutions.

Dx-EDGE is a national initiative spearheaded by CII with the support of NITI Frontier Tech Hub (NITI FTH) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to drive digital transformation across India's MSMEs.

Labour Ministry & ILO launch social protection data pooling for better coverage.

The Labour and Employment Ministry, in collaboration with the States and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), has begun the social protection data pooling exercise in the country. This exercise aims to obtain a holistic picture of social protection coverage in India. In the first phase, the ministry has identified 10 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha, for data consolidation at the central level.

SC stays Allahabad High Court's controversial order on rape.

The Supreme Court of India has stayed the controversial order of the Allahabad High Court and said the judgment showed a "lack of sensitivity". The controversial Order of

Allahabad High Court observed that acts like grabbing breasts or breaking the string of pyjamas do not constitute an attempt to rape and the prosecution must go beyond this “stage of preparation” to prove its charges against a rape accused. The Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance of the case.

Business and Economy

Centre discontinues gold Monetization Scheme

The Central government has decided to discontinue the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) starting from March 26, 2025 in view of the evolving market conditions.

However, the banks may continue their short term gold deposit schemes (1-3 years), the Ministry said in the statement.

Government drops import duty on EV, phone battery components.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that there would be no import duties on 35 capital goods used to make Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries and 28 items used in mobile phone battery making to boost domestic manufacturing.

HDFC Bank introduces Embassy Fixed Deposit.

HDFC Bank has introduced the Embassy Fixed Deposit for diplomats, non-diplomatic staff, and missions, allowing investment exclusively in USD. Interest rates are updated monthly and vary with market conditions. The minimum deposit amount is USD 5,000 equivalent. Additional deposits must be made in multiples of USD 1,000.

India top milk producer in the world: Animal Husbandry Minister.

India is the top producer of milk in the world and has set a target of producing 300 million metric tons (MMT) of milk in the next five years from the present 239 MMT, Union Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh said in the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Singh also said that ever since the Modi government has launched the Rashtriya Gokul

Mission (RGM) in 2014, the milk production in the country has increased by 63.5 per cent and the government is hopeful of further increasing it by 15 per cent in the next three years.

ADB and Shriram Finance sign deal to boost MSME and EV Financing in India.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Shriram Finance Limited have signed a loan agreement for \$150 million to boost access to finance for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in India with a focus on business loans and for financing electric vehicles (EVs) and low-emission commercial vehicles for business purposes. The loan will particularly benefit women-owned MSMEs and those in lagging states.

Public Sector Banks record 33% rise in dividend payouts in FY24.

According to government data, public sector banks (PSBs) declared a total dividend of ₹27,830 crore for FY24, marking a significant 32.7% rise from the ₹20,964 crore distributed in FY23. Out of the total dividend paid, nearly 65%, approximately ₹18,013 crore, was remitted to the government in FY24, attributable to its substantial shareholding in these banks.

In FY24, 12 public sector banks collectively recorded a net profit of ₹1.41 lakh crore, a steep rise from ₹1.05 lakh crore reported in FY23.

NBSL unveils BHIM 3.0 with enhanced features.

NPCI Bhim Services Ltd, the wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the Bhim (Bharat Interface for Money) 3.0 app with new features. Users can now split bills with friends and family, onboard family members, track shared expenses and assign specific payments. It also has a task assistant that reminds users of pending bills linked to the Bhim app.

Bhim 3.0 also offers Bhim Vega, an in-app payment solution which integrates with online merchant platforms, allowing customers to complete payments instantly within the app without switching to third-party apps.

Sports

Anahat Singh, Joshna Chinappa and Abhay Singh storm into Indian Open Squash Semi-final.

In Squash, India's Anahat Singh, Joshna Chinappa and Abhay Singh have entered into the Semi-final of Indian Open. Anahat defeated Egypt's Nadien El Hammamy 3-2 in the women's quarterfinals in Mumbai. Meanwhile, Joshna Chinappa conquered Akanksha Salunkhe 3-2 to enter the women's semifinals round. Abhay Singh also reached the semifinals

with a 3-nil win over Ameeshenraj Chandaran of Malaysia in the men's draw.

India wins 2nd bronze in Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2025.

Indian wrestlers have continued their good run on the second day of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2025, with Nitesh clinching the second bronze medal for the country in Amman, Jordan. In the bronze medal match, Nitesh handed Amanberdi Agamammedov of Turkmenistan a dominant 9-0 defeat.