

International

Timor-Leste Joins ASEAN as 11th Member

Timor-Leste became the 11th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during the 47th ASEAN Summit in Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur. Timor-Leste's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao joined the ASEAN leaders for the signing of documents confirming the nation's inclusion in the bloc. This is the first expansion in the group since 1999.

Malaysia, as the Chair of ASEAN, is hosting the 47th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits under the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability" in Kuala Lumpur from October 26-28.

Putin Announces Successful Test of Nuclear-Powered 'Burevestnik' Missile

Russian President Vladimir Putin has announced the successful test of a unique nuclear-powered 'Burevestnik' cruise missile with unlimited range and ordered the armed forces to prepare infrastructure for its deployment. The 'Burevestnik' cruise was in the air for 15 hours and covered 14,000 kilometres during successful trials.

National

EAM S. Jaishankar Represents India at 20th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India at the 20th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The East Asia Summit will provide an opportunity to deliberate on the challenges to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and also exchange views on regional and international developments.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Home Minister Inaugurates India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025 in Mumbai. The five-day event, being organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in partnership with the Indian Ports Association, will showcase India's vision for sustainable maritime growth, trade expansion, and blue

economy development. The event will see participation of leaders from the maritime industry, policymakers, investors, innovators, and stakeholders from India and abroad.

Grand Finale of Model Rocketry and CANSAT India Student Competition Begins in UP

In Uttar Pradesh, the 4-day-long grand finale of the Model Rocketry/CANSAT India Student Competition will start from today on the banks of the Narayani River at Tumkuhiraj, Kushinagar. This is one of India's largest student-led space competitions organised by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPaCe) in partnership with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Astronautical Society of India (ASI).

A total of 71 student teams, comprising around 600 students from various institutions across the country, have arrived in Kushinagar to participate in the competition.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 Announced

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 awards have been announced. The awards are given in recognition of exceptional contributions in science, technology, and innovation under four categories – Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shree, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and Vigyan Team.

Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar will be given the Vigyan Ratna award posthumously. Eight scientists have been selected for the Vigyan Shree award. Under the Vigyan Yuva category, 14 young scientists have been selected across various disciplines, while the Vigyan Team award is being given to Team Aroma Mission CSIR for its contributions in Agricultural Science.

Business and Economy

RBI Approves Reappointment of C S Rajan as Part-Time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank Till 2027

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of C S Rajan as Part-Time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited for a further period from January 1, 2026, to October 21, 2027.

The decision follows Kotak Mahindra Bank's application to the RBI, seeking an extension of Rajan's term. His reappointment will align with the end of his current tenure as an Independent Director on the Bank's Board.

RBI Draft Norms Say Acquisition Finance Only for Listed Entities

The RBI has released draft guidelines for acquisition finance by banks to Indian companies, requiring target entities to be listed with a three-year profit history and satisfactory net worth. Aggregate exposure limits are set at 10% of Tier 1 capital, with a maximum 70% bank financing of the acquisition value. Further, the annual returns of the target company should be available for at least the previous three financial years, and the acquisition value of the target company shall be determined by two independent valuations as prescribed in the SEBI regulations.

Federal Bank to Sell Minority Stake to Blackstone Affiliate for Rs 6,200 Crore

The board members of Federal Bank have approved the sale of a 9.99% stake to an affiliate of the U.S. private equity firm Blackstone. The transaction is said to be executed via preferential equity shares and warrants for Rs. 6,196.5 crore.

With this transaction, Asia II Topco XIII Pte. Ltd. would own 9.99% of Federal Bank. The bank will issue over 27 crore warrants with each priced at Rs 227.

Sports

Mexico City Grand Prix: Lando Norris Wins, Takes Lead in F1 Championship

Lando Norris has reclaimed the championship lead from teammate Oscar Piastri by winning in Mexico City to snap a five-race losing streak, creating a tense final push for the Formula 1

title. The sixth victory of the season for Norris was his first time back on top of the podium since winning the Hungarian Grand Prix at the start of August.

Norris holds a one-point advantage over Piastri with four races remaining.

Priteesmita Bhoi Sets World Record, Wins Gold at Asian Youth Games

Indian lifter Priteesmitha Bhoi has established a new youth world record at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain. Competing in the girls' 44kg event, she successfully lifted 92kg in the Clean & Jerk. This exceptional lift, combined with her other successful attempts, gave her a total weight of 158kg, securing the gold medal for the country.

India Wins Two Golds at Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Championships

India swept two gold medals in the girls' singles events at the Badminton Asia Under-17 and Under-15 Championships 2025 in Chengdu, China, with Shaina Manimuthu and Diksha Sudhakar winning their respective age groups. In the Under-15 girls' singles badminton final, Shaina defeated Japan's Chiharu Tomita 21-14, 22-20 before Diksha Sudhakar got the better of compatriot Lakshya Rajesh 21-16, 21-9 in the Under-17 girls' singles final.

Gukesh, Divya Deshmukh Win Big at European Chess Club Cup

In chess, Indian grandmasters Gukesh Dommaraju and Divya Deshmukh starred at the recently held 2025 European Chess Club Cup, winning two gold medals apiece. D Gukesh, playing for team Super Chess and Women's World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh, playing for Cercle d'échecs de Monte-Carlo, won the team championship in the women's competition. India's Nihal Sarin also bagged an individual gold medal.