

International

Argentina eases entry rules for Indian citizens.

South American nation Argentina has relaxed its entry rules for Indian citizens, allowing those with a valid US tourist visa to travel without needing to apply separately for an Argentine visa. This move cuts down processing times and costs for Indian travellers.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit holds key defence talks on the sidelines of CHODs 2025 in Thailand.

On the sidelines of the ongoing annual Chiefs of Defence Conference (CHODs) 2025 conference in Thailand, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) of India, has held a series of meetings with senior defence officials from Vietnam, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. The multilateral discussions revolved around broadening Defence Cooperation, advancing Maritime Collaboration, deepening professional military exchanges, and exploring new domains of partnership, including technology.

Luxembourg launches first reconnaissance satellite with Israeli-made camera.

European nation Luxembourg has launched its first reconnaissance satellite aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The satellite, named NAOS, was placed into orbit as part of a €168 million program funded by the Luxembourg government. The satellite was built by Italy's OHB, which outsourced the satellite's camera to Israeli defence firm Elbit Systems. Elbit's Jupiter camera was developed by its Intelligence and Electronic Warfare Division.

National

India appoints Dinesh K Patnaik as new High Commissioner to Canada.

India has announced the appointment of Dinesh K. Patnaik, currently serving as Ambassador to Spain, as the next High Commissioner to Canada. Mr Patnaik, a 1990-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, will assume his assignment shortly.

Meanwhile, Canada has also announced the appointment of veteran diplomat Christopher Cooter as its new High Commissioner in New Delhi.

NHAI launches 'Project Aarohan' to support education for children of toll plaza employees.

To support the educational aspirations of the children of toll plaza employees, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in collaboration with Vertis Infrastructure Trust, announced the launch of 'Project Aarohan'. The initiative aims to remove financial barriers, bridge socio-economic divides, and provide equal access to quality education for students from economically weaker sections, including girls from low-income households, first-generation learners, and those from Economically Weaker Sections/Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes and minority communities.

Jitendra Singh launches India's first National Biofoundry Network.

Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh has launched the country's first National Biofoundry Network, describing it as a step towards making biotechnology a driver of India's economy, environment, and employment.

The Minister said the National Biofoundry Network comprises six institutions to help scale up proof-of-concept developments, enhance indigenous biomanufacturing, and create employment opportunities.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completes 11 years on August 28.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana PMJDY has completed 11 years on August 28. It is one of the biggest financial inclusion initiatives in the world, which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August 2014. The scheme ensures access to a range of financial services like availability of basic savings bank account, access to need-based credit, remittances facility, insurance, and pension.

Business and Economy

India may emerge as the second-largest economy by 2038 in PPP terms: EY.

According to a report by EY, India may become the world's second-largest economy in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms by 2038, with a projected GDP of USD 34.2 trillion. Citing an IMF report, EY said India's economy could reach USD 20.7 trillion (PPP) by 2030. Compared to the US, China, Germany, and Japan, India is uniquely placed, it asserted. Among the largest economies, India stands out with a median age of 28.8 years in 2025, the second-highest savings rate, and a government debt-to-GDP ratio projected to decline from 81.3 per cent in 2024 to 75.8 per cent by 2030, unlike its peers, where debt levels are rising. While China leads in overall size with a projected USD 42.2 trillion economy (PPP) by 2030, its ageing population and rising debt are challenges.

Industrial growth jumps to four-month high of 3.5%.

India's industrial production rose to a four-month high of 3.5% in July, up from 1.5% in June, driven by 5.4% growth in manufacturing. Mining output fell 7.2%, while electricity grew only 0.6%. Industrial growth averaged 2.3% in April-July FY26, sharply lower than 5.4% in the same period last year.

The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had expanded by 5 per cent in July 2024.

Punjab National Bank opens its first startup branch.

Government-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has inaugurated its first startup-centric branch in New Delhi. Aligned with the Startup India initiative, this branch aims to promote entrepreneurship and support innovation through services, including all facets of banking solutions. Further, an MoU was signed between PNB and STPI to extend financial support to eligible startups.

Under this collaboration, STPI will play a pivotal role by sharing a curated list of incubated, onboarded, or graduated startups with the bank, acting as a bridge between the startups and financial institutions to facilitate access to PNB's startup-focused schemes and financial products

Centre extends duty-free imports of cotton by three months till December 31.

The Union government has extended the duty-free import of cotton by three more months till December 31 to support textile exporters facing steep 50% tariffs in the U.S.

Earlier, on August 18, the Finance Ministry had allowed duty exemption on cotton imports from August 19 till September 30.

Jana Small Finance Bank set to merge investment and financial holding firms.

Jana Small Finance Bank has initiated a process to merge its non-operative financial holding company into core investment company to create a leaner structure, even as the bank is awaiting the Reserve Bank of India's decision on its universal bank licence application.

Jana Capital is the core investment company, which promoted Jana Holdings as the non-operative holding company to hold the promoter stake in the small finance bank. Jana Capital holds 100% in Jana Holdings, which in turn, holds 21.88% in the bank.

Murugappa Group's CG Semi opens 'pilot line' in Gujarat semiconductor facility.

CG Semi, a subsidiary of the Murugappa Group that has received fiscal support from the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), has inaugurated a "pilot line" on its semiconductor packaging facility in Sanand, Gujarat. India's first 'made-in-India' semiconductor chip will roll out of Gujarat's CG Semi Pvt Ltd in Sanand, Information Technology (IT) minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at the inauguration of CG Semi's pilot OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) facility.

The firm's ₹7,600 crore project is financed with 50% support from the Union government, in partnership with U.S. semiconductor firm Renesas Electronics, and Thai firm Stars Microelectronics.

This is the first plant among the 10 projects cleared under the ₹76,000-crore ISM to open its pilot line.

Sports

Praggnanandhaa qualifies for the Grand Chess Tour final in the US.

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has sealed his spot in the Grand Chess Tour finale after finishing runner-up at the Sinquefeld Cup, where American Wesley So claimed the title with a dramatic three-way playoff victory.

So defeated Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the ninth and final round to tie with Praggnanandhaa and compatriot Fabiano Caruana on 5.5 points at the top.

India announces 73-member squad for World Para Athletics Championships.

The Indian squad for next month's World Para Athletics Championships was announced. The championship is to be held in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, from September 27 to October 5. This event is being hosted by the country for the first time.

Goa announced as official host for the FIDE World Cup 2025.

The FIDE World Cup finally has its host city, with the global governing body of chess announcing Goa to be the official host. The World Cup will be played from October 30 to November 27. Initially, India's capital, New Delhi, was being touted as a host venue, but there were concerns about it, which led to a rethink.

Neeraj Chopra secures 2nd place at Diamond League Final in Zurich.

Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra has secured the second place at the Diamond League Final in Zurich, Switzerland, marking his 26th consecutive top-two finish in international javelin events. In his final and sixth attempt, Chopra came through with 85.10 metres, claiming the runner-up spot. Each javelin thrower has six attempts.

Germany's Julian Weber dominated the competition with a personal best and world-leading throw of 91.51 metres in his second attempt, securing the gold early.