

International

20th East Asia Summit Adopts Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Peace and Stability

The 20th East Asia Summit has adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, reaffirming its commitment to peace and stability. The declaration was adopted during the Summit held in Kuala Lumpur. It called for close partnerships with other participating countries to promote strategic trust and to ensure transparent, predictable, and responsible behaviour in regional and international affairs. The declaration also emphasised the importance of exchanging information on regional development cooperation, security policies, disaster management and discussions on the evolving regional architecture.

Sixty-Five Nations Sign the First UN Treaty to Fight Cybercrime

Sixty-five nations have signed a landmark United Nations treaty, aimed at tackling cybercrime, in Hanoi — a move Secretary-General António Guterres hailed as a historic step toward a safer digital world. The UN Cybercrime Convention is a powerful, legally binding instrument to strengthen our collective defences against cybercrime. The signing ceremony was hosted by Vietnam in collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The new treaty criminalises a range of cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled offences, facilitates the sharing of electronic evidence across borders and establishes a 24/7 cooperation network among States. It will enter into force 90 days after the 40th State deposits its ratification.

Pakistan: Lahore Tops World Pollution Charts with AQI of 424

Lahore has ranked as the world's most polluted city for the past three days, with air quality plummeting to hazardous levels as smog blanketed the city and the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) hit 412, prompting health warnings and a province-wide crackdown on pollution sources. Along with Lahore, Pakistan's Karachi also featured in the top 10 most polluted cities globally. It stood at the third spot in the list with an AQI recorded at 174.

Hurricane Melissa Hits Jamaica as Category 5

Hurricane Melissa is now centered off Jamaica's northern coast after striking as one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes in history.

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm with 175 mph winds, has weakened slightly but remains a powerful Category 3 as it moves toward Cuba. The storm has caused extensive damage to homes, hospitals, and schools in southwestern Jamaica.

It has also already claimed seven lives, including three in Jamaica, three in Haiti, and one in the Dominican Republic, and left more than ten people injured.

IUCN Adopts Historic Motion on Global Soil Security

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has adopted Motion 007 on Soil Security Law, marking the first time that a global conservation body formally recognised soil security as central to food systems, water supply, biodiversity protection, and climate resilience.

The motion was co-sponsored by Save Soil (Isha Outreach) and the Global Centre for Environmental Legal Studies of the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University in the United States, with inputs from Aurora, the Soil Security Think Tank in Australia. The adoption of the motion sets the stage for the development of the world's first Model Law for Soil Protection.

National

HAL Signs MoU with Russian Firm to Produce SJ-100 Civil Aircraft in India

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has signed an MoU with a Russian public stock company, United Aircraft Corporation, for the production of SJ-100 civil commuter aircraft in India. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh hailed the landmark step for the civil aviation sector of the country. He added that SJ-100 will be the first complete passenger aircraft to be made in the country.

CJI Gavai Recommends J. Kant as the 53rd Chief Justice of India

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai has recommended Justice Surya Kant, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, as his

successor to the office and the 53rd Chief Justice of India. The Central government had, in the previous week, written to Chief Justice Gavai, seeking his recommendation. Chief Justice Gavai is scheduled to retire on November 24.

NCERT Signs MoU with IIT Madras to Boost EdTech and Research Initiatives

The National Council for Educational Research and Training has signed an MoU with IIT Madras in New Delhi to strengthen educational research, development, training and technology integration. It further informed that the collaboration aligns with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020 and aims to promote Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning-enabled learning solutions.

The agreement will also foster research, data analytics and multilingual platforms and resources to further learning and training of students and teachers, and development of digital content and platforms.

Gyan Bharatam Mission to sign MoUs With Institutes for the Conservation of Manuscripts

The Gyan Bharatam Mission on manuscripts under the Union Culture Ministry signed MoUs with around 20 institutes across the country for the conservation, upkeep and digitisation of manuscripts.

While the 20 institutes signed the MoUs, 30 more will do so over the next few days, a senior official of the Union Culture Ministry said. Some of these institutes are the Asiatic Society, Kolkata; the University of Kashmir, Srinagar; the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Prayagraj; and the Government Oriental Manuscript Library, Chennai.

Business and Economy

India's Industrial Output Rises 4% in September

India's industrial production growth, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 4 per cent on an annual basis in September this year, led by the manufacturing sector. According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme

Implementation, among the three major components of IIP, manufacturing advanced by 4.8 per cent, and electricity logged a rise of 3.1 per cent. However, mining output remained in contraction, declining by 0.4 per cent.

Japan Sees World's First Yen-Pegged Stablecoin Debut

The world's first stablecoin pegged to the yen was launched in Japan, a small but significant move in a country where traditional payment means like cash and credit cards dominate financial infrastructure. A Japanese startup, JPYC, will begin issuing stablecoins that are fully convertible to the yen and backed by domestic savings and Japanese government bonds (JGB).

The move follows U.S. President Donald Trump's support for the sector that has sparked a revival of interest in the idea of using blockchain in the mainstream financial system.

RBI Returns Jana Small Finance Bank's Universal Bank Application

Jana Small Finance Bank's plan to transition into a universal bank has hit a setback after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) returned its application, citing non-fulfilment of eligibility criteria. The bank would make a fresh application after fulfilling the requirements, managing director Ajay Kanwal said.

Amazon to Cut 30,000 Office Jobs Amid Ramped-up Investments in AI

Amazon will lay off tens of thousands of office workers as the e-commerce and tech giant trims costs amid ramped-up investments in artificial intelligence.

Some 30,000 positions will be cut in a belt-tightening move expected to begin on October 28, 2025.

Paytm Enables UPI Payments for NRIs Using International Mobile Numbers

Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) can now use Paytm UPI in India with their international mobile numbers, thanks to a new feature rolled out by fintech giant Paytm. This development eliminates the need for a local Indian SIM card, offering seamless transactions via NRE or NRO accounts.

The service, currently in beta, is available for NRIs in 12 countries, including the US, UK, UAE, Canada, Australia, Singapore, and more. Users can now send money, pay merchants, and scan UPI QR codes just like domestic users—without incurring forex conversion or gateway charges.

RBI Panel Backs Cash-Flow-Based Lending, Digital Tools to Boost MSME Credit

Cash-flow-based lending and adoption of digital solutions like the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) can improve credit linkage for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), a Standing Advisory Committee headed by Reserve Bank of India deputy governor Swaminathan J suggested.

The committee also emphasized addressing information asymmetry, financial literacy, and delayed payments to promote fair lending and rehabilitation of viable distressed units.

Citi Elevates CEO Jane Fraser to Chair

Citigroup has appointed CEO Jane Fraser as Chair, with John Dugan transitioning to Lead Independent Director. Since becoming CEO in 2021, Fraser has led operational streamlining, international consumer business exits, and executive recruitment. She joined Citi in 2004 and previously served as President and Global Consumer Bank CEO.

Jio Payments Bank Announces Change in Official Website Domain

Jio Payments Bank Limited (JPBL), a subsidiary of Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL), has announced a change in its official website domain name in line with RBI's guidelines. The bank's new website address is www.jiopayments.bank.in, replacing the earlier domain www.jiobank.in.

Pomelli AI: Google's Play for SMB Marketing

Google Labs, in collaboration with Google DeepMind, has unveiled Pomelli AI, an experimental tool designed to democratize on-brand social media campaign generation for small- to medium-sized businesses. This initiative signals Google's continued strategic push into practical AI applications for enterprise, specifically targeting a segment often underserved by high-cost marketing solutions. The public beta launch in select English-speaking markets marks a significant step in this direction.

Sports

India's Sujeet Kalkal Wins Gold at U-23 World Wrestling Championships

In wrestling, India's Sujeet Kalkal has claimed gold at the Under-23 World Championships. Competing in the men's freestyle 65-kilogram category, Kalkal dominated Uzbekistan's Umidjon Jalolov with a 10-0 win. The bout lasted just four minutes and 54 seconds before the referee stopped the contest, declaring Kalkal the winner by superiority.

Smriti Mandhana Tops Women's ODI Batting Rankings with 828 Points

Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana has secured the top spot among batters in the world in women's ODI rankings. She achieved a rating of 828 points, which puts her nearly 100 points ahead of the second-placed player, Ashleigh Gardner of Australia.

Among bowlers, England's Sophie Ecclestone leads with 747 ratings, while Australia's Alana King moved to second place, edging teammate Ash Gardner to third spot.