

International

Sri Lanka to introduce 6-month programme granting free tourist visas to passport holders from 39 countries.

Sri Lanka will introduce a six-month programme granting free tourist visas to passport holders from 39 countries, including India, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, and Australia.

Indian tourists, the largest group of visitors to Sri Lanka, will continue to enjoy free entry under a new visa initiative aimed at boosting arrivals. Sri Lanka recorded about 2.3 million tourist arrivals in 2025, with India accounting for the largest share at roughly one-fifth of total visitors.

India emerge as global leader in issuing IRCCs under Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

India has emerged as the global leader in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance, (IRCCs), under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS). The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change informed that IRCCs serve as official proof that Prior Informed Consent has been obtained and Mutually Agreed Terms have been established between users and providers of genetic resources.

India has issued 3,561 IRCCs out of a total of 6,311 worldwide, accounting for over 56 percent of all certificates.

NASA launches astronauts on historic Artemis moon mission.

NASA launched Artemis II on a historic crewed mission to the moon. Four astronauts blasted off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida on a monumental 10-day mission to circumnavigate the moon. The mission crew includes NASA's Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch along with the Canadian Space Agency's Jeremy Hansen. The historic and risky lunar venture will mark the first time astronauts return to the vicinity of the moon

in more than 50 years. The mission could travel farther from the Earth than any human ever has, breaking the Apollo program's distance record.

5 Indian airports make Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026 top 100 rankings.

Five Indian airports have featured in the global top 100 of the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport leads the country at 28th position, followed by Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport at 41st and Hyderabad Airport at 43rd. Goa's Manohar International Airport ranks 64th, while Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport stands at 66th. The rankings reflect gradual improvements in passenger experience, infrastructure and service quality across India's key aviation hubs.

Singapore's Changi Airport has been named the world's best airport again at the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026, also winning multiple category awards for dining, immigration service and more.

National

PM Modi inaugurated the Kaynes Semicon Plant at Sanand GIDC, Ahmedabad.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the Kaynes Semicon Plant at Sanand GIDC, Ahmedabad. With this the commercial production will commence at the facility, with the manufacturing of advanced Intelligent Power Modules (IPMs) representing a significant milestone in India's semiconductor journey.

IPMs are critical components for automotive and industrial applications requiring compact, efficient, and reliable power switching systems. Each module comprises 17 chips and will be supplied to California-based Alpha and Omega Semiconductor (AOS).

Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot and Mascot “DISHIKA” unveiled at DISHA Programme.

The Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot, along with its official mascot “Dishika”, was unveiled at the DISHA programme organised by the Department of Justice at Vigyan Bhawan by the Vice-President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan, and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.

Nyaya Setu is a voice-first, multimodal, multilingual AI-powered legal assistant designed to democratise access to justice by helping citizens understand legal processes, rights, and next steps through simple voice and text interactions across multiple Indian languages.

Built and owned as a turnkey AI implementation by the Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), the platform demonstrates a complete end-to-end voice stack, enabling seamless voice-led user journeys through integrated technologies including BHASHINI ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition), multilingual NLP, and conversational AI systems.

Indian Navy receives Malwan, second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft.

The Indian Navy received Malwan, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, built by Cochin Shipyard Limited at Kochi. The Ministry of Defence informed that the vessel has been indigenously designed and constructed as per Indian Navy specifications. Named after the historic coastal town of Malwan, The 80-metre-long vessel, with a displacement of over one thousand 100 tonnes, is equipped for underwater surveillance and anti-submarine warfare operations in coastal waters.

Business and Economy

GST revenue in March 2026 at 10-month high of ₹2 lakh crore.

India’s gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose to a 10-month high of Rs 2 lakh crore in March, up 8.8 percent from the year-ago period. The March uptick follows a dip in February when collections came in at Rs 1.84 lakh crore, reflecting a steady recovery in monthly revenues through the second half of FY26. Collections previously peaked at Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April 2025, the highest in the available dataset.

On a month-on-month basis, GST revenues increased from Rs 1.84 lakh crore in February to Rs 2 lakh crore in March.

CoinDCX launches ₹100 crore cybersecurity network.

Crypto exchange CoinDCX has announced the launch of a ₹100 crore Digital Suraksha Network (DSN), an initiative aimed at tackling cyber fraud and strengthening trust in India’s digital finance ecosystem.

The initiative will support independent research on digital fraud, fund the development of new standards, and build tools such as an open Fraud Intelligence API. It also plans to publish quarterly “State of Digital Trust” reports and support training programmes for state cybercrime cells. A 24×7 WhatsApp helpline is also being proposed to help users verify transactions and avoid scams.

RBI caps loans against shares at Rs 1 crore system-wide, defers norms to July.

The Reserve Bank of India has clarified that loans to individuals for purchase of shares and other eligible securities will be capped at Rs 1 crore per borrower across the entire banking system, while borrowing for subscribing to shares through initial public offerings, follow-on offers or employee stock option plans will be limited to Rs 25 lakhs per individual. The RBI had earlier announced limits would be raised to Rs 1

crore from Rs 20 lakh. The move aims to curb excessive speculative borrowing and reduce risks from leveraged positions during market swings.

Microsoft unveils AI upgrades, rolls out Copilot Cowork to early-access customers.

Microsoft has unveiled new features in its Copilot research assistant that would allow users to utilise multiple AI models simultaneously within the same workflow, the latest move by the tech giant to improve its AI offering and boost adoption.

In a new feature called “Critique”, Copilot’s Researcher agent will now be able to pull outputs from both OpenAI’s GPT and Anthropic’s Claude models for every response, rather than relying on a single model.

Oracle layoffs: Around 12,000 employees laid off in India.

Around 12,000 employees in India are reportedly part of the 30,000 laid off by Oracle, a US-based tech giant, with another round of job cuts expected within a month. It has reportedly fired around 30,000 employees globally. It has reportedly offered 15 days' salary to each employee who has completed a year of service in India, in addition to one month of unpaid wages till termination date, leave encashment, gratuity based on eligibility and pay for a one-month notice period.

New Income Tax Act 2025, comes into effect from April 1, 2026.

With effect from April 1, 2026, the Income Tax Act, 2025 replaces the six-decades-old Income Tax Act, 1961. The objective is to enhance predictability, transparency, reduce compliance burden, and offer taxpayers a streamlined and simplified tax filing process. Compared to the old Act, which had 819 Sections and 14 Schedules, the 2025 Act is leaner, with 536 Sections and 16 Schedules. Further, the number of rules have also been reduced from 511 to

333, while forms have been significantly reduced from 390 to 190.

Particularly, this rationalisation is evident in provisions that directly impact individual taxpayers, such as submitting Forms 15G/15H to prevent excess Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), paying Tax Collected at Source (TCS) on overseas remittances under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), and using the new FAST-DS system for simpler and faster TDS compliance.

30 mineral blocks made operational in FY 2025-26: Govt.

In a first for the country, the Ministry of Mines informed that thirty mineral blocks have been made operational in a single financial year, that is, FY 2025-26.

Most of the blocks that have been made operational are that of limestone, followed by iron ore.

Sports

Abhay and Anahat receive Asian Squash Federation honours.

India’s Abhay Singh has been declared the outstanding Men’s Player of the Year 2025 by the Asian Squash Federation (ASF), while rising teenaged sensation Anahat Singh was selected for the top honours in the girls’ section (juniors).

The Indian boys’ team, which claimed bronze at the 2025 World Junior Team Championships in Egypt, was picked for the Men’s team award.

Indian boxers Sachin Siwach & Vishvanath Suresh advance to quarterfinals in Asian Boxing Championships.

In the Asian Boxing Championships, Indian boxers Sachin Siwach and Vishvanath Suresh advanced to the quarterfinals in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia,. Siwach secured a hard-fought 4-1 split decision victory over Buyandalai Bayarkhuu, in the 60kg round. Suresh progressed to the quarterfinals with a dominant 5-0 unanimous-decision win over Bekzat Ergeshov.