

International

SCO 'strongly condemns' Pahalgam attack in Tianjin declaration.

The member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) unequivocally condemned the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack on India, extended condolences to the victims, and called for justice against those responsible. At the conclusion of the 25th Council of Heads of State summit of the SCO, held in Tianjin, China, the Tianjin Declaration was adopted, delivering a comprehensive statement of unity against terrorism and acknowledging India's contributions to regional peace and development.

The Tianjin Declaration also conveyed a strong and unified message against terrorism, separatism, and extremism. It recognized India's global vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future,"

812 killed, over 2800 injured in Afghanistan earthquake.

In Afghanistan, at least 812 people have been killed and 2,817 injured in the deadliest earthquake since 2015. The eastern province of Kunar is the worst affected, followed by Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan, and Panjshir. Entire villages have been destroyed and communications disrupted, complicating rescue efforts.

21st edition of India-US Joint Exercise Yudh Abhyas underway in Alaska

An Indian Army contingent has reached Alaska in the USA at Fort Wainwright to participate in the 21st edition of the India-US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025. The 21st edition of the India-USA Joint Military Exercise began yesterday and will continue till the 14th of this month. Over the two weeks, troops will rehearse a spectrum of tactical drills, including heliborne operations, employment of surveillance resources and unmanned aerial systems, mountain warfare, and the integrated use of Artillery, Aviation, and Electronic Warfare systems, among others.

At least 1,000 killed in Sudan landslide

A landslide has killed at least 1,000 people in the remote Marra Mountains in western Sudan.

Many residents from North Darfur state had sought refuge in the Marra Mountains region after war between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) forced them from their homes.

National

Govt appoints TCA Kalyani as new Controller General of Accounts.

The Union government has appointed TCA Kalyani, a 1991-batch officer of the Indian Civil Accounts Service, as the country's new Controller General of Accounts. Kalyani succeeds SS Dubey, a 1989-batch officer of the Indian Civil Accounts Service, who was appointed to the post in March 2023.

DGCA grants safety clearance to Air India SATS, India's first ground handling operations company.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted safety clearance to Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt Ltd (AISATS) for the first time. With this, India has become the second country after Malaysia in the Asia Pacific region to implement such a comprehensive framework in alignment with ICAO guidance.

OpenAI plans India data centre with at least 1 gigawatt capacity.

ChatGPT parent, OpenAI is scouting for local partners to set up a data centre in India with at least 1 gigawatt capacity. OpenAI, backed by Microsoft, has formally registered as a legal entity in India and has begun building a local team.

Centre launches advanced biomanufacturing hubs.

The Union government has launched a network of advanced biomanufacturing hubs to scale up the country's bioeconomy and accelerate innovation across diverse sectors.

The High-Performance Biomanufacturing Platforms, an initiative of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), are being rolled out under the BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Environment, Economy and Employment).

National Nutrition Week 2025 observed from September 1st- 7th.

National Nutrition Week is celebrated every year from September 1st to 7th across India, an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to raise awareness about healthy eating and nutrition literacy. The theme for the National Nutrition Week 2025 is 'Eat Right for a Better Life'.

Business and Economy

Ajay Seth appointed IRDAI chairman after 5-month gap.

Ajay Seth has assumed charge as Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India after the top regulatory office had remained vacant for five months. A 1987-batch IAS officer of the Karnataka cadre, Seth is a former secretary of the department of economic affairs and has over three decades of experience in economic policy and regulatory reforms. He succeeds Debashis Panda, whose term ended on March 13.

IDFC First Bank enables GST payment via UPI, cards, net banking.

IDFC First Bank has started a facility to pay goods and services tax (GST) for both its customers as well as non-customers. Customers can pay GST through UPI, credit cards, and debit cards and Internet banking and also through nationwide branch network (via DD, cheque or cash).

UPI transactions first time cross 20bn mark in this August

Unified Payments Interface, UPI has achieved a new milestone with first time ever crossing twenty billion transactions in the month of August this year. According to the National Payments Corporation of India, the total number of transactions stood at 20.01 billion, marking a 34 per cent year-on-year increase from 14.9 billion in August last year.

Nestle CEO Laurent Freixe fired.

Swiss food giant Nestle has dismissed Laurent Freixe as chief executive with immediate effect over an undisclosed romantic relationship with a direct subordinate. In a swift move, Nespresso CEO Philipp Navratil was appointed to take over by his fellow board members.

Gross GST mop-up rises 6.5% to ₹1.86 lakh cr in August.

Gross GST collection increased 6.5% to over ₹1.86 lakh crore in August on higher domestic revenues driven by strong domestic consumption ahead of the festive season. Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) mop-up was ₹1.75 lakh crore in August 2024. Last month, the collection was ₹1.96 lakh crore.

India, UAE review progress of CEPA, agree to expand bilateral trade to 200bn US dollar by 2030.

India and the United Arab Emirates have reviewed the progress made under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has held a bilateral meeting with Minister of Foreign Trade of the UAE Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi in Mumbai. During the meeting, Bharat's Hub for Agri-tech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation (BHARATI) initiative by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was also launched. This program is a cornerstone of APEDA's ambitious vision to achieve 50 billion US dollars in agri-food exports by 2030.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that the two countries reaffirmed their shared vision of expanding bilateral trade to achieve the trade target of a hundred billion US dollars non-oil, non-precious metals by 2030.

Deutsche Bank puts India retail banking business up for sale.

Deutsche Bank is exploring the sale of its Indian retail banking assets and has invited bids from domestic and foreign lenders in the country, making it the latest foreign bank to consider trimming its bets on India.

Japan Post Bank to launch digital yen in 2026.

Japan Post Bank said it would launch a digital yen by the end of fiscal 2026 to make it more convenient for its depositors to make digital financial transactions. The move by the postal giant, which holds roughly 190 trillion yen (\$1.29 trillion) in deposits, highlights a growing wave of domestic entities tapping blockchain technology to streamline financial transactions.

Railways sign MoU with SBI for enhanced insurance benefits to its employees.

Indian Railways and the State Bank of India have signed an MoU for enhanced insurance benefits to railway employees. The MoU was signed in the presence of Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and SBI Chairman C.S. Setty in New Delhi.

Under this MoU, insurance coverage for Railway employees maintaining salary accounts with SBI has been significantly enhanced. In case of accidental death, the insurance benefit has been increased to one crore rupees, compared to the current coverage of one lakh 20 thousand rupees for Group A employees, 60 thousand rupees for Group B, and 30 thousand rupees for Group C employees covered under the Central Government Employees' Group Insurance Scheme.

CMS Info Systems to replace 1,000 ATMs for India Post Payments Bank.

The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has awarded the contract to replace its fleet of 1,000 ATMs and cash dispensers to CMS Info Systems after the bankruptcy of ATM service provider AGS Transact Technologies.

CMS Info Systems manages an impressive 73,000 ATMs, representing 47% of all

outsourced ATMs in India. The company's reach extends beyond ATMs, encompassing 65,000 retail touchpoints, underlining its strong presence in the cash management ecosystem.

Sports

New Delhi to host Badminton World Championships 2026 after 17 years.

New Delhi will host the Badminton World Championships in August next year. The announcement was made by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) during the closing ceremony of the 2025 Championships in Paris. The competition will return to India after 17 years and to Asia after four years. In 2009, the World Championships were held in Hyderabad.

US Open: Novak Djokovic reaches quarterfinal.

In the men's singles pre-quarterfinals at the US Open Tennis, Novak Djokovic beat Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 to reach his record-extending 64th Grand Slam quarterfinal.

In another Singles match, World No. 2 and former champion Carlos Alcaraz of Spain beat Frenchman Arthur Rinderknech 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 to advance to the quarterfinal.