

International

Israeli airstrike on Gaza residential block kills 100.

A single Israeli airstrike on a residential block in the northern Gaza city of Beit Lahia has left nearly 100 people dead. The strike hit a five-story building housing around 200 people, killing 93 and leaving 40 missing, with dozens more injured. Medics said at least 20 children were among the dead.

Hezbollah announces Naim Qassem as New Chief

Hezbollah announced that one of its founding members, Naim Qassem, will be its new chief. It said 71-year-old Qassem has served as the Deputy Secretary General of the Lebanese group since 1991. Qassem will succeed Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed more than a month ago in an Israeli bombing. On October 22, Israel confirmed that it had also eliminated Hashem Safieddine, the apparent successor of the former leader, in Beirut three weeks ago.

National

Ayushman Vaya Vandana to provide health coverage for all senior citizens aged 70 and above.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). This expanded scheme offers free health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh annually for every citizen aged 70 years and above, irrespective of income or economic status.

The initiative aims to provide dignified healthcare access to elderly citizens, many of whom have struggled with costly medical treatment.

India-Spain sign MoUs in rail transport, customs & investment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of the Government of Spain, Mr

Pedro Sánchez, discussed a range of bilateral issues during delegation-level talks in Vadodara, Gujarat. The two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in promoting sustainable energy and adapting to climate change. The two sides signed an MoU on rail transport, which officials said, will boost cooperation in design, development and operation of infrastructure, rail facilities and equipment, as well as urban and regional railway systems.

They also signed an agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters and agreed to set up a fast-track mechanism to facilitate mutual investments.

Navy Chief Dinesh Tripathi launches 'Swavlamban 2024' exhibition to promote indigenization.

The third edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar, Swavlamban – 2024, started in New Delhi. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi inaugurated this two-day event at Bharat Mandapam.

Swavlamban – 2024 is aimed at promoting the innovation and indigenisation endeavours of the Indian Navy. Several companies and start-ups are participating in the Swavalamban 2024 showcasing products of niche technologies such as air and surface surveillance, autonomous systems in surface, aerial, and underwater domains, AI, and quantum technologies.

Mobile app for birth and death registration launched.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application to integrate technology with governance. Mr. Shah said that the application will make registration of births and deaths seamless and hassle-free by allowing citizens to register at any time, from any place, and in their State's official language.

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah flagged off the 'Run for Unity'.

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah flagged off the 'Run for Unity' at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The event was organized to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who was born on 31st of October 1875. Remembering the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Mr Shah said Sardar Patel played a pivotal role in unifying the diverse princely states to form a united country.

TRAI blacklists over 800 entities, curb spam calls & SMS fraud

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has taken significant measures to curb the menace of spam calls and prevent the misuse of SMS headers and content templates by unscrupulous elements in forwarding fraudulent messages. These measures aim to safeguard consumer interests and ensure a clean and secure messaging ecosystem. TRAI issued directions on August 13th this year, mandating that any entity found making promotional voice calls in violation of regulations will face strict consequences. In response to these directions, over 800 entities and individuals have been blacklisted, and more than 1.8 million mobile numbers and telecom resources have been disconnected.

Business and Economy

OpenAI builds first chip with Broadcom and TSMC.

OpenAI is working with Broadcom and TSMC to build its first in-house chip designed to support its artificial intelligence systems, while adding AMD chips alongside Nvidia chips to meet its surging infrastructure demands.

OpenAI, the fast-growing company behind ChatGPT, has examined a range of options to diversify chip supply and reduce costs. OpenAI considered building everything in-house and raising capital for an expensive plan to build a

network of factories known as "foundries" for chip manufacturing.

Karnataka launches new programmes to help start-ups.

The Karnataka state government announced the launch of two flagship programmes- - ELEVATE 2024 and Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) - to help early stage and growth-stage start-ups fuel their growth by solving funding woes.

ELEVATE 2024 is a grant-in-aid seed funding scheme designed to empower early stage start-ups in the state, while KAN is an acceleration network that provides mentorship, market access, and funding opportunities for growth stage start-ups across Karnataka.

India's forex reserves position estimated at \$688.27 billion.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that India's foreign exchange reserves position as on October 18, 2024 was estimated at \$688.27 billion.

This includes Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) of \$598.24 billion, Gold worth \$67.44 billion, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of \$18.27 billion and Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) of \$4.32 billion,.

Canara Bank Q2 net up 11% to ₹4,014 crore

Canara Bank has reported 11.31% year-on-year increase in net profit for the September quarter of FY25 to ₹4,014 crore, increase from ₹3,606 crore in Q2 FY24. The bank's net interest income improved to ₹9,315 crore, up from ₹8,903 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

During Q2, the bank recovered up to ₹500 crore, a portion of the total ₹11,777 crore it has under NCLT, through liquidation activities and various settlements.

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank posts 'highest-ever' Q2 net profit

Private lender Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.'s (TMB) standalone net profit for the September quarter rose 11% to ₹303 crore on account of an increase in net interest income, interest income and a reduction in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).

Interest income rose to ₹1,337 crore from ₹1,209 crore. Net interest income grew 12% to ₹596 crore while net interest margin improved to 4.25% from 4.10%. Non-interest income stood at ₹227 crore against ₹156 crore, the private sector lender said.

Sports

Football: Son Heung-Min wins Asia's International Player of the Year

Tottenham and South Korea forward Son Heung-min was crowned Asia's International Player of the Year for the fourth time by the Asian Football Confederation at its annual awards ceremony in Seoul. Son, who captains both Tottenham and South Korea, won the prize in 2015, 2017 and 2019 and took the trophy from compatriot Kim Min-Jae of Bayern Munich.

Australia's Ellie Carpenter, who plays for French club Lyon, became the inaugural winner of the women's international award.

Women's Cricket: India beat New Zealand, win three-match series 2-1.

In women's cricket, India clinched three match series 2-1 against New Zealand as the hosts defeated the Kiwis by six wickets in the final match. Chasing the target of 233 runs at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India concluded the match in 45th over with help of Smriti Mandhana's century. Earlier, electing to bat first, New Zealand scored of 232.

Ballon d'Or 2024: Full list of winners

Rodri and Aitana Bonmati were named the best players in world football at the 2024 Ballon d'Or awards ceremony in Paris.

Ballon d'Or 2024 award winners

Ballon d'Or: Rodri

Ballon d'Or Feminin: Aitana Bonmati

Kopa Trophy: Lamine Yamal

Men's Coach of the Year: Carlo Ancelotti

Women's Coach of the Year: Emma Hayes

Yashin Trophy: Emiliano Martinez

Men's Club of the Year: Real Madrid

Women's Club of the Year: Barcelona

Gerd Muller Trophy: Harry Kane and Kylian Mbappe