

International

US, South Korea Seal \$350B Trade and Investment Deal

The US and South Korea have reached a broad trade deal, both countries stated following talks between their leaders. The two sides will keep reciprocal tariffs at 15 per cent, which was agreed earlier this year, but the taxes on car and car parts would be lowered. South Korea will also invest 350 billion dollar in the US, including 200 billion dollar in cash investment and 150 billion dollar in shipbuilding.

Patrick Herminie Sworn in as Seychelles Sixth President

Patrick Herminie was sworn in as Seychelles' sixth president after defeating incumbent Wavel Ramkalawan in a run-off election earlier in the month. Herminie won 52.7% of the vote, returning the United Seychelles party to full control of government.

Chef Sanjeev Kapoor Named "Top Agri-Food Pioneer" By World Food Prize Foundation

Celebrated chef, author and Padma Shri awardee Sanjeev Kapoor has been honoured as a Top Agri-Food Pioneer by the World Food Prize Foundation. The ceremony was held in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. The award was presented during the Borlaug Dialogue Week, hosted annually by the World Food Prize Foundation.

The recognition marks Kapoor's transformative contribution to improving the global food ecosystem by promoting healthy and sustainable eating, supporting Indian agriculture, and encouraging the use of local, nutrient-rich ingredients.

Historic Asia Pacific Cities Summit Opens in Dubai

More than 15,000 urban leaders, policymakers, and innovators from over 600 cities worldwide have converged at Expo City Dubai as the 2025 Asia Pacific Cities Summit and Mayors' Forum officially opened, marking a historic first for the event in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia region.

The three-day summit, running through October 29, brings together 118 mayors, deputy mayors, business executives, and young professionals under the banner "Collaborate. Inspire. Transform."

Actress Prunella Scales Passes Away

British actress Prunella Scales, best known as Sybil Fawlty in the classic sitcom Fawlty Towers, has died in London aged 93. Scales was best known for playing hotel manager Sybil Fawlty, the long-suffering and domineering wife of Basil - played by John Cleese - in the classic British sitcom.

Elon Musk's xAI Launches AI-Powered Grokipedia

Elon Musk's AI company xAI has rolled out an AI-powered online knowledge database that is being pitched as a Wikipedia replacement.

Grokipedia, as it is called, had about 8,85,279 articles as of October 28, 2025, with Musk promising that more updates and upgrades would be coming.

Unlike the human-edited platform, Grokipedia aims to offer greater transparency by using AI-generated content and real-time data to build a more open and intelligent knowledge source.

National

Over ₹3,000 Crore Donated for Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple Construction

Ram devotees across the world have donated more than three thousand crore rupees for the construction of the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Temple in Ayodhya. Chairman of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Nripendra Mishra, said that so far, 1500 crore rupees have been spent on the Ram Temple construction, and this figure is likely to reach 1800 crore rupees by the time the work is completed.

Cabinet Approves the Nutrient-Based Subsidy Rates for Rabi Season 2025- 26

The Union Cabinet has approved the nutrient-based subsidy rates for Rabi Season 2025-26 on phosphatic and potassic fertilisers. The Cabinet

has approved a subsidy of about 37, 952 crore rupees for Rabi 2025 and the rates will be applicable from the 1st of October.

Youth Engagement Initiative 'Mera Yuva Bharat' Crosses 2 Crore Registrations

Flagship youth engagement initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mera Yuva Bharat, has achieved a milestone, with the platform by crossing over 2 crore registrations. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya called it a proud moment for the nation.

With over 14.5 lakh volunteering opportunities created, MY Bharat connects a vast network of more than 16 thousand youth club members and over 60 thousand institutional partners, including government departments, educational institutions, and NGOs.

SC Seeks Details from States, UTs on FIRs Registered in Digital Arrest Scam Cases

The Supreme Court of India issued notices to all states and Union territories seeking details of first information reports (FIRs) registered by them in connection with digital arrest scams. Observing the rising digital arrest scams in the country, with people losing lakhs of rupees to fraudsters, the Supreme Court also contemplated handing over the investigation of all cases to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The top court asked CBI to respond whether it has the resources to handle all cases across the country related to such scams.

Business and Economy

SEBI May Ease High Value Debt-Listed Entity Compliance

Markets regulator SEBI has proposed a framework to reduce the compliance burden of companies with large debts, by raising the threshold for identifying High Value Debt Listed Entities (HVDLEs) to ₹5,000 crore from the current ₹1,000 crore.

The move would reduce the number of entities classified as HVDLEs from 137 to 48, effectively bringing down around 64% of companies currently falling under the category.

PayPal Signs Deal With OpenAI to Become the First Payments Wallet on ChatGPT

PayPal has signed a deal with OpenAI to have its digital wallet embedded into ChatGPT so users can pay for items found through the leading consumer AI tool. The agreement means that starting next year, both sides of PayPal's ecosystem can plug into ChatGPT, where PayPal users can purchase items through the AI platform, and its merchants can sell on it, with their inventory listed there.

RBI Rejects Dia Vikas Capital Holding More Than 5% in ESAF Small Finance Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has rejected an arrangement between ESAF Financial Holdings and its investors, which would have led to Dia Vikas Capital holding more than 12% in the ESAF Small Finance Bank.

The group will now have to redraft the scheme, which was envisaged to bring down promoter shareholding in the bank.

ESAF Financial Holdings, the promoter of ESAF Bank with 52.92% ownership, is now evaluating an alternative course of action to reduce the promoter shareholding in the bank to comply with the RBI Bank Ownership Directions 2023.

VFS Capital Withdraws Application for Small Finance Bank Licence, Says RBI

Kolkata-based VFS Capital Ltd has withdrawn its application for a small finance bank license. The central bank had received an application from VFS Capital under the guidelines for "on tap" licensing of small finance banks in the private sector.

The microfinance company started working with the bottom of the pyramid borrowers in 1996-97 and was one of the earlier ones to get an NBFC license. It got registered with the RBI as an NBFC-MFI in September 2013.

Sports

Punjab's Namitbir Singh Walia Becomes International Master in Chess

Punjab's Namitbir Singh Walia from Jalandhar has become an International Master (IM) in chess by securing the fourth overall position at the 3rd Annemasse International Masters Tournament in France, recently.

Namitbir is the second from Punjab to achieve this accomplishment, after almost four years of Dushyant Sharm, who made history as Punjab's first International Master in February 2022.

India's Anahat Singh Reaches Semifinals of Canadian Women's Open 2025

In squash, India's Anahat Singh stormed into the semifinals of the Canadian Women's Open 2025. Anahat defeated world number seven Tinne Gilis of Belgium 3-NIL (12-10, 11-9, 11-9) in straight games in the women's singles quarter-final in Toronto. Anahat Singh will be up against England's Georgina Kennedy in the semifinal clash.

Anahat is currently ranked 43rd in the world. This was her first win against a top-10 player.

James Anderson Receives Knighthood

James Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, has received his knighthood from Princess Anne during a ceremony at Windsor Castle. He finished with 704 Test wickets, the most ever taken by a pace bowler, and behind only spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Shane Warne (708). He claimed a further 269 in ODIs — still an England record, despite playing his last white-ball match in 2015.

Dhinidhi Desinghu Sets National Swimming Record in 400m Freestyle at Asian Youth Games

In swimming, India's Dhinidhi Desinghu has set a new national record in the 400 metre freestyle at the Asian Youth Games 2025 in Bahrain. Dhinidhi clocked 4 minutes 21.86 seconds to finish fifth in the final, bettering her own record of 4 minutes 24.60 seconds.