

International

Russia Tests Nuclear-Powered Poseidon Underwater Drone

Russia has successfully tested its new atomic-powered and nuclear-capable underwater drone, Poseidon, declaring it impossible to intercept. Russian President Vladimir Putin made the announcement, just days after informing about a successful test of the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile. The Poseidon drone was tested while running on nuclear power for the first time, describing it as a huge success. He claimed Poseidon outperforms all existing systems in speed and depth.

King Charles III Begins Process to Strip Prince Andrew of Royal Titles

King Charles III has started the formal process to remove his younger brother, Prince Andrew, from his royal titles and to make him leave his large home, the Royal Lodge in Windsor. This decision follows increased public focus on the 65-year-old Duke of York's connection to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, especially after the release of a memoir by Virginia Giuffre.

Giuffre, who passed away in April, had accused Prince Andrew of sexual assault when she was a minor, which he has always denied.

Over 2,000 Civilians Killed by RSF in El Fasher, Sudan Government Says

The Sudanese government said that more than 2,000 civilians have been killed by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in western Sudan's El Fasher since it entered the city on Sunday. The war between the Sudan Armed Forces and the RSF, now in its third year, has killed tens of thousands, displaced millions, and left much of the country on the brink of famine.

India, Nepal Sign Agreements to Boost Power Cooperation and Cross-Border Transmission

India and Nepal signed two major agreements to boost power cooperation and develop new cross-border transmission lines for enhanced regional energy trade and connectivity. The agreements have been signed between India's POWERGRID and the Nepal Electricity Authority. Both agreements cover the

development of the Inaruwa in Nepal to New Purnea in India, and Lamki, Dododhara in Nepal to Bareilly in India—both 400 kilovolt transmission systems.

Hurricane Melissa Kills Nearly 50 in Caribbean

The death toll from Hurricane Melissa rose to nearly 50 people, after the ferocious storm devastated Caribbean islands and was bearing down on Bermuda. Hurricane Melissa is now passing through the Bahamas as a Category 1 hurricane after making landfall in Cuba. Cuba suffered significant damage from the storm, and around 140,000 people were cut off by rising river levels. Melissa smashed into both Jamaica and Cuba with enormous force, and residents were assessing their losses and the long road to recovery.

In Haiti, the death toll had risen to 30, with 20 people injured and another 20 missing.

National

Justice Surya Kant Appointed as Next Chief Justice of India

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice Surya Kant as the next Chief Justice of India. His appointment will be effective from 24th of next month. Justice Surya Kant will be the 53rd Chief Justice. He will succeed Chief Justice BR Gavai, whose tenure will end on the 23rd of next month.

India Granted US Sanctions Waiver for Chabahar Port

India has received a waiver on the United States' sanctions against Iran's Chabahar port for a period of six months, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced. Officials said that the sanctions waiver had come into effect from October 29. The exemption enables India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) to operate at the Shahid Beheshti terminal without the threat of penalties under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA). Under the pact, IPGL pledged \$370 million in total investments for port development, including over \$120 million already spent on infrastructure upgrades and on linking Chabahar to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Over 10,000 Farmer-Producer Organisations Established Across India, Says Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that so far, ten thousand Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs) have been established in the country, and the turnover of some FPOs have reached 100 crore rupees. While addressing the two-day FPO Samagam 2025 in New Delhi, the Minister informed that 1,100 FPOs have now become crorepatis. He said that 52 lakh farmers have been benefited, and the government is setting a target to reach two crore farmers through the initiative.

PM Modi to Attend International Aryan Summit 2025 in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the International Aryan Summit 2025 at Rohini, New Delhi. The programme is part of the Jyāna Jyoti Festival commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati Ji and 150 years of Arya Samaj's service to society. The Prime Minister will also address the gathering on the occasion. The Summit aims to honour Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati's reformist and educational legacy, celebrate 150 years of Arya Samaj's service in education, social reform, and nation-building and Swadeshi values in alignment with Viksit Bharat 2047.

PM Modi Leads Nation in Grand National Unity Day Celebrations at Statue of Unity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in the grand celebrations of National Unity Day 2025, marking Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary at the Statue of Unity at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat. National Unity Day, also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, is celebrated every year on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The day is dedicated to promoting national unity, integrity and security.

Business and Economy

India Exports First-Ever GI-Tagged Indi and Puliyanakudi Limes to UK

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first-ever air shipment of GI tagged Indi and Puliyanakudi limes from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to the United Kingdom. The Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement that the consignment includes 350 kg of Indi Lime from Vijayapura, Karnataka, and 150 kg Puliyanakudi Lime from Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu.

Bank Deposit Growth Slows to 9.5% as of Oct 17: RBI Data

Bank's deposits mobilisation slowed further, with the latest print as on October 17 showing 9.5% yearly growth, 40 basis points lower as compared with 9.9% seen a fortnight back, Reserve Bank of India said. Yearly credit growth remained at 11.5% zone for the period, a tad better than 11.4% print seen 14 days back. Demand deposits rose 16.8% year-on-year at the end of October 17, while time deposits, which reflects the CASA, expanded at a slower 8.55% pace.

UPI Tops Festive Season Payments, Transactions Jump to Rs 17.8 Lakh Crore

According to a report by Bank of Baroda, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has emerged as the most preferred mode of payment during the festive season, reflecting strong consumer spending and a revival in demand. The report noted that the value of UPI transactions rose sharply to Rs 17.8 lakh crore during the festive period, compared to Rs 15.1 lakh crore in the same period last year. The increase shows how digital payments continue to drive consumption patterns, especially during major festivals like Dussehra and Diwali.

US Federal Reserve Cuts Key Lending Rate to 3.75–4 Percent

The US Federal Reserve has lowered the target for its key lending rate by 0.25 percentage points, putting it in a range of 3.75 percent to 4 percent. The central bank pushed forward with

an interest rate cut, as inflation fears continue to take a backseat to concerns about a stalling labour market. The Fed's latest cut brings the target for its key lending rate down to its lowest level in three years, easing borrowing costs across the US.

Banks Told to Double Micro Card Rollout for Faster MSME Credit

The Centre has asked banks to double this year's target for rolling out Micro Enterprise Cards (ME-Cards) to ensure that all eligible micro units get faster access to working capital credit. The Central government had initially set a goal for banks to issue one million ME-Cards this fiscal year. The initiative aims to provide quick working capital credit to eligible micro businesses. The government has finalized a model scheme for these cards, which offer a credit limit of up to ₹5 lakh.

Sports

India Enter Final of ICC Women's ODI World Cup

In the ICC Women's ODI World Cup, India entered the final, defeating Australia by 5 wickets in a thrilling semifinal at Dr D Y Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai. Chasing a target of 339 runs, India overhauled the target with 5 wickets in hand and 9 balls to

spare. Jemimah Rodrigues's dazzling unbeaten 127 off 134 and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's 89 off 88 helped India chase down the mammoth total posted by the defending champions, Australia.

Ilamparthi AR becomes India's 90th Chess Grandmaster

Ilamparthi AR became Tamil Nadu's 35th and India's 90th chess Grandmaster. He achieved his final Grandmaster norm at the Bijeljina Open 2025 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Some of the biggest stars in chess, such as legendary Viswanathan Anand, India's first-ever chess grandmaster, teen sensation Praggnanandhaa R and reigning world champion D Gukesh hail from Tamil Nadu.

Kiran George Enters Hylo Open Quarterfinals

In badminton, India's Kiran George stunned world No 13 Toma Junior Popov of France to enter the men's singles quarterfinals of Hylo Open Super 500 tournament at Saarbrücken in Germany. World No.38 Kiran defeated eighth seed Popov 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 in a 69-minute thriller.

Earlier, Lakshya Sen bagged his spot in the men's singles quarterfinals. Lakshya eased past compatriot S Subramanian 21-14, 21-11 in a pre-quarterfinal match.