

## International

### Trump administration halts immigration processes for applicants from 19 non-European nations.

The Trump administration has suspended all immigration procedures, including green card and citizenship applications for individuals from 19 non-European countries, citing national security and public safety concerns. These nations were already part of a partial travel ban imposed in June.

The decision follows last week's attack in Washington on U.S. National Guard personnel, allegedly involving an Afghan suspect, which left one guard member dead and another critically injured.

### India takes over Chairship of International IDEA.

India has assumed the Chairmanship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for the first time, with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at the helm. Formed in 1995, International IDEA has 37 member nations, and India has been an active founding member in its governance and electoral cooperation initiatives.

### India sends BHISHM Cube to support cyclone-hit Sri Lanka under Aarogya Maitri mission.

India has deployed the BHISHM Cube medical unit to cyclone-affected Indivitiya in Sri Lanka under the Aarogya Maitri project. BHISM Cube is an innovative portable hospital, the first of its kind, designed to provide rapid medical assistance in emergencies.

The temporary community space was converted into a medical centre equipped with multi-OPD care, lab, X-ray and a Minor Operation Theatre.

Operated jointly with Sri Lankan medical services and Air Force Hospital Katunayake, it has already treated over 300 patients, proving crucial in the flooded regions.

### India and Philippines Coast Guards strengthen maritime cooperation in first Bilateral Meet.

The Indian Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard have reaffirmed their commitment to deepen maritime cooperation during their first Annual Bilateral Meeting in Manila.

Held under the 2023 MoU, the talks reviewed ship visits, joint exchanges and operational activities, agreeing to boost interoperability. The dialogue supports India's Act East Policy and initiatives like SAGAR, focusing on search and rescue, law enforcement, marine pollution response and capacity-building to enhance Indo-Pacific maritime security.

## National

### Supreme Court declares illegal immigrants have no legal rights in India.

The Supreme Court ruled that illegal immigrants and intruders have no legal right in India, stressing that the country cannot extend a "red carpet" to those who enter unlawfully. The bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made the observation while hearing a plea on missing Rohingyas. The Court said benefits must prioritise citizens, while also stating that illegal migrants cannot be subjected to custodial torture.

### PM Modi renames Prime Minister's Office as 'Seva Tirth'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has renamed the Prime Minister's Office as 'Seva Tirth', highlighting the government's focus on service-oriented governance.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Raj Bhavan and Raj Niwas will now be called Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas, marking a shift toward people-centric administration.

### Madhav Khurana appointed Special Public Prosecutor in Red Fort blast case.

The Union Home Ministry has appointed senior advocate Madhav Khurana as the special public prosecutor for the trial of the Red Fort blast case, which occurred on November 10 and claimed 15 lives.

He will represent the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for three years before the NIA special court and the Delhi High Court.

The case involves seven accused, including alleged suicide bomber Umar Un Nabi, who detonated explosives inside a Hyundai i20.

### **DRDO achieves breakthrough with successful test of Fighter Aircraft Escape System.**

DRDO has successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of a fighter aircraft escape system in Chandigarh, validating canopy severance, ejection sequencing and complete aircrew recovery.

The Ministry of Defence said the complex trial places India among a select group of nations with advanced escape-system testing capability.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised DRDO, the IAF and industry partners, calling the milestone a major step toward defence self-reliance.

The full sequence was recorded through onboard and ground imaging systems.

### **Sanchar Saathi App fully voluntary and aims to boost digital security: Scindia.**

Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia clarified that the Sanchar Saathi app is completely voluntary and designed to enhance citizens' digital security through user-friendly and transparent tools.

Users can activate or delete the app anytime. Since launch, over 20 crore people have used the portal, and 1.4 crore have downloaded the app, helping trace 26 lakh lost phones.

The platform also disconnected over 40 lakh fraudulent mobile connections and blocked 6 lakh fraud-linked IMEIs.

### **Fourth edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam opens in Varanasi to celebrate cultural unity.**

The fourth Kashi Tamil Sangamam was inaugurated in Varanasi by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Launched in 2022 on PM Modi's vision, the event continues to strengthen cultural ties between North and South India.

Yogi Adityanath called it a confluence of language and tradition under "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat."

Over 1,400 delegates from Tamil Nadu are participating, with new features added to deepen cultural exchange and promote Tamil heritage nationwide.

### **BSF installs anti-tunnelling system along Punjab–Jammu border to counter smuggling and infiltration**

The Border Security Force has begun installing an advanced anti-tunnelling system along the Punjab–Jammu border to detect underground movement and prevent the digging of tunnels used for smuggling weapons, drugs or infiltrating terrorists from Pakistan.

ADG Satish S. Khandare said the system will provide real-time alerts.

### **NHAI teams up with Reliance Jio to roll out highway safety alert system.**

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has partnered with Reliance Jio to introduce telecom-based safety alerts for highway users.

The system will send advance warnings through SMS, WhatsApp and high-priority calls to help travellers adjust speed and driving behaviour before entering risky zones.

It will be integrated in phases with NHAI platforms like the Rajmargyatra app and helpline 1033, offering automated alerts to all Jio users on or near national highways.

### **Parliament clears Manipur GST (Second Amendment) Bill 2025 to streamline tax rates and boost business ease.**

Parliament has passed the Manipur GST (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, after the Rajya Sabha returned it to the Lok Sabha.

The Bill, replacing the October ordinance, amends the 2017 GST Act and implements GST Council decisions to consolidate tax slabs into 5% and 18%.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the legislation will simplify compliance, reduce disputes and support businesses with stronger track-and-trace mechanisms. MPs highlighted that the reform will aid Manipur's economic recovery and administrative stability.

## Tamil Nadu adds five new GI tags, showcasing state's rich craft and agricultural heritage.

Tamil Nadu has secured GI recognition for five products—Woraiyur cotton sari, Kavindapadi jaggery, Namakkal soapstone cookware, Thooyamalli rice and Ambasamudram wooden toys—taking its total to 74 GI tags. The newly listed items highlight the state's weaving, farming and traditional craftsmanship legacy. Each product reflects unique regional skills, from Woraiyur's historic cotton weaving and aroma-rich Thooyamalli rice to Ambasamudram's 200-year-old toy-making tradition.

## Business and Economy

### PNB appoints Harmanpreet Kaur as first female brand ambassador.

Punjab National Bank has appointed Indian women's cricket captain and World Cup champion Harmanpreet Kaur as its first-ever female brand ambassador, marking a key milestone in its brand transformation. The announcement was made at the corporate office during the "Banking On Champions" ceremony in the presence of senior leadership. Harmanpreet received a framed PNB jersey and a commemorative gift to mark the association.

### RBI directs banks to expand regional language services for better customer access.

The RBI has tightened customer-service norms by mandating wider use of regional languages across all banking touchpoints. Banks must now adopt a Board-approved policy to ensure essential documents like account opening forms, passbooks, pay-in slips and grievance details are available in Hindi, English and the local language.

The guidelines also require multilingual support on digital platforms and contact centres, with all official customer communication issued in trilingual format to improve accessibility in rural and semi-urban regions.

### India unveils digital credit assessment model to speed up MSME loan approvals.

The government has launched the Credit Assessment Model (CAM) to streamline and accelerate loan approvals for MSMEs. The new system uses digitally verifiable business data and automated evaluation to make loan processing faster and more objective for both existing and new borrowers. CAM standardizes creditworthiness assessment, reducing delays and human error.

The initiative aligns with India's broader push to strengthen digital finance and promote a seamless lending ecosystem.

### RBI retains SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as 'Too Big to Fail' Institutions in 2025 D-SIB List.

The Reserve Bank of India has confirmed that SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank will continue as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2025.

These institutions, due to their size, complexity and high interconnectedness are considered "too big to fail" and crucial to India's financial stability.

As D-SIBs, they must maintain higher capital buffers under the CET-1 framework to absorb shocks and prevent systemic disruption in the economy.

## Sports

### India storm into Junior World Cup Quarterfinals with 5–0 win.

India entered the FIH Junior Hockey World Cup 2025 quarterfinals with a dominant 5–0 victory over Switzerland in Madurai, finishing unbeaten on top of Pool B.

Manmeet, Sharda Nand Tiwari and Arshdeep Singh scored, while Sharda Nand was named Player of the Match. India will face Belgium next in Chennai. In women's hockey, India meets Germany tonight after their impressive 13–0 opening win over Namibia in Pool C.