

International

Singapore elections 2025

A total of 206 candidates from 11 parties, including two independents, are vying for 92 seats across 32 constituencies in Singapore elections, which are underway. Over 27 lakh people are eligible to cast their ballots this year. The ruling People's Action Party (PAP) is facing major opposition from the Workers' Party chief Pritam Singh, his Progress Singapore Party (PSP) counterpart Leong Mun Wai, and the Singapore Democratic Party's (SDP) chairman Paul Tambyah.

Parliamentary elections in Australia

Polling is taking place for all 150 seats in the House of Representatives and 40 of the 76 seats in the Senate in Australia to elect members of the 48th Parliament of the country. Incumbent Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of the ruling Labor Party is seeking re-election for a second term. He is facing a strong challenge from the leader of the conservative Liberal-National Coalition, Peter Dutton. Moreover, Greens Leader Adam Bandt is making the contest triangular.

The 2025 BRS COPS underway

The seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (BC COP-17), the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-12) and the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-12) are underway in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2025. These conventions are international environmental agreements aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of hazardous chemicals and wastes. The meetings are taking place under the theme of "Make visible the invisible: sound management of chemicals and wastes."

National

President of Angola, on a state visit to India

João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of Angola, arrived in New Delhi on a State Visit to

India. A visit by the President of Angola to India is taking place after 38 years. The visit comes at a time when India and Angola are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year. Bilateral trade between the two countries has been growing and reached 4.192 billion dollars during 2023-2024.

Holy relics of Lord Buddha from India reach Vietnam.

Indian Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Andhra Pradesh Minister Kandula Durgesh, monks, and officials arrived in Ho Chi Minh City with the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha aboard a special Indian aircraft. The visit marks the United Nations Day of Vesak celebrations in Vietnam from May 6-8. A Sacred Bodhi tree sapling from India was planted at the Vietnam Buddhist University. The Relics, brought from Sarnath and supported by the Mahabodhi Society, National Museum of India, and International Buddha Confederation, will be displayed in Ho Chi Minh City until May 7, then in Tay Ninh, Ha Noi, and Ha Nam until May 21.

India and Denmark sign a renewed memorandum of understanding.

To strengthen energy cooperation, India and Denmark have signed a renewed memorandum of understanding. The MoU will support India's ambitious target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. It aims to foster knowledge exchange and technological collaboration between the two countries, particularly in the area of clean and sustainable energy solutions. The renewed agreement broadens the partnership in areas such as cross-border electricity trading, development of EV charging infrastructure, and integration of variable renewable energy.

BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal has been appointed the Chairperson of the Committee on Estimates for 2025-26.

BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal has been appointed the Chairperson of the Committee on Estimates for 2025-26 by the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Mr Birla constituted the 30-member committee with effect from May 1, 2025, for the term ending on

the 30th of April next year. Mr Birla has also appointed BJP MP Baijayant Panda as the Chairperson of the Committee on Public Undertakings for 2025-26. In the 22-member committee, there are 15 members from the Lok Sabha and 7 members from the Rajya Sabha.

Core capital facilities for the city of Amaravathi, and Multiple development Projects Inaugurated.

On May 2, 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated, laid the foundation stone, and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over 58,000 crore rupees from Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, including the core capital facilities for the city of Amaravathi.

Vizhinjam International Seaport dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister.

The first semi-automated one in the country, the Vizhinjam International Seaport, was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, May 2, 2025. Positioned hardly 10 nautical miles from the international shipping routes connecting Europe, the Gulf region, and the Far East, the east-west shipping axis, the port is expected to significantly reduce India's dependence on other international ports for transshipment of cargo.

Spectacular display of its operational capacity by the Indian Air Force.

In an event, the first of its kind, the Indian Air Force showcased a spectacular display of its operational capacity today on a 3.5-kilometre airstrip on the Ganga Motorway in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district. The event featured advanced fighter jets like the Rafale, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, SU-30 MKI, and MiG-29, alongside transport aircraft such as the C-130J Super Hercules and AN-32, as well as the versatile MI-17 V5 helicopter. The airshow took place in two phases, daytime and nighttime, aimed at testing the motorway's airstrip as a viable runway for emergency operations during conflicts or natural disasters. UP is the first state in the country to have a night landing facility for fighter jets on a motorway.

Economy /Business

India's foreign exchange reach 688.13 billion dollars.

According to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by 1.98 billion dollars, reaching 688.13 billion dollars in the week ending April 25. Foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, were up by 2.17 billion dollars to around 580.6 billion dollars. Special Drawing Rights were up by 21 million dollars, reaching 18.59 billion dollars, and the Central Bank's position in the International Monetary Fund was also up by 2 million dollars, reaching 4.51 billion dollars. However, gold reserves decreased by 207 million dollars, totalling 84.37 billion dollars.

India's total exports touch an all-time high

As per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India, India's total exports have touched an all-time high of 824.9 billion dollars in the financial year 2024-25, which includes the services trade for March 2025. This marks a growth of 6.01 per cent over the previous year's export figure of 778.1 billion dollars. Services exports led the surge, rising 13.6 percent to an all-time high of 387.5 billion dollars. The updated figures surpass the Commerce Ministry's earlier estimate of 820.93 billion dollars, reflecting a stronger-than-expected services trade performance

Sports

All India Football Federation (AIFF) Awards 2025

At the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) Awards 2025, in Bhubaneswar, Subhasish Bose was named the Men's Player of the Year, while Soumya Guguloth was named the Women's Player of the Year for the 2024-25 season. Khalid Jamil was awarded Best Men's Coach, and Sujata Kar received the Best Women's Coach honour. Vishal Kaith and Elangbam Panthoi Chanu were named Best Goalkeepers in the men's and women's categories, respectively. Rising stars

Brison Fernandes and Toijam Thoibisana Chanu were recognised as the Most Promising Players of the Year.

The England and Wales Cricket Board bans transgender females from all levels of women's and girls' cricket

In response to the UK Supreme Court's April 15 ruling, which defined "woman" in legal terms as

based on biological sex, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced that transgender females will no longer be able to take part in all levels of women's and girls' cricket across England and Wales, with immediate effect. The ECB's decision follows similar moves by other sports governing bodies.