

International

Dr. Deepak Mittal appointed as India's next Ambassador to UAE.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Dr. Deepak Mittal, a 1998-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, as India's next Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He will succeed Sunjay Sudhir, who is set to retire in September.

Dr. Mittal has held several key diplomatic and strategic roles, including two stints in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He earlier served as India's Ambassador to Qatar (2020–2022).

The UAE is a vital strategic partner for India, being a major energy supplier and host to over 3.5 million Indians, one of the largest expatriate communities in the region.

India tops Sri Lanka's tourist arrivals in August.

India remained the leading source of tourists to Sri Lanka in August 2025, with 46,473 Indian visitors, according to data from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA).

Overall, Sri Lanka recorded 198,235 tourist arrivals in August, reflecting a 20.4% year-on-year increase compared to the 164,609 arrivals in the same month last year.

India announces 1,000 e-scholarships for Afghan students (2025–26).

India has announced 1,000 e-scholarships for Afghan nationals under the Special Scholarship Scheme for Afghan Nationals (SSSAN) for the academic year 2025–26. The scheme will be implemented through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) via the e-VidyaBharati (e-VB) i-learn portal.

Eligibility: Afghan students aged 18–35 years.

Mode: Online UG & PG courses.

Universities onboard: Jamia Millia Islamia, IGNOU, Anna University, Kurukshetra University, and five others.

Important Days

World Coconut Day: 2nd September.

World Coconut Day is observed every year on 2nd September to highlight the importance and diverse benefits of coconuts, while also

promoting the growth of the global coconut industry.

The day was first established in 2009 by the International Coconut Community (ICC), an intergovernmental organization dedicated to coconut-growing nations.

The date also commemorates the foundation day of the ICC, which was created in 1969 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

India, being one of the world's largest producers of coconuts, is also a founding member of the ICC.

National

Home Ministry reiterates passport and visa exemption for Nepal, Bhutan citizens; extends relief to persecuted minorities.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has clarified that citizens of Nepal and Bhutan entering India by land or air will continue to be exempted from furnishing passports or visas, as per the earlier practice. The exemption was notified under the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025.

The order also grants relief to minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan—including Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians—who entered India on or before 31st December 2024 due to religious persecution or fear of it. Those who arrived without valid documents or whose travel papers have expired will be exempted from the requirement of possessing valid passports or visas.

APEDA launches BHARATI to support agri-food startups, aims \$50 billion exports by 2030.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has launched a new initiative called BHARATI – Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement – to accelerate India's agri-food exports.

Under BHARATI, APEDA will support 100 agri-food startups, promote innovation in the

agri-food sector, and work towards achieving \$50 billion agri-food exports by 2030.

The initiative is aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Startup India, aiming to strengthen India's global position in agri-food trade while fostering innovation and resilience in the sector.

Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh launches Kapas Kisan App for cotton farmers.

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh today launched the Kapas Kisan App, designed to streamline cotton procurement under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme.

The mobile application enables farmers to self-register, book procurement slots, and track payments, ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in the cotton procurement process.

MWCD to launch guidelines on co-location of Anganwadi centres with schools.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) will release the guidelines on co-location of anganwadi centres with schools in New Delhi.

The guidelines aim to strengthen early childhood care and education (ECCE) by promoting integrated models where Anganwadis function alongside schools. This framework will offer operational clarity for States and Union Territories to expand the co-location model effectively.

According to the Ministry, more than 2.9 lakh Anganwadi Centres across the country have already been co-located with schools, reflecting a major step towards improving access to holistic child development and foundational learning.

NCVET, MSDE conduct zonal capacity-building workshop in Guwahati for the northeast.

The National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with the Government of Assam, organized a Zonal Capacity-Building and Awareness

Workshop for the Northeast region in Guwahati.

The workshop included participation from all eight Northeast states, involving state skill missions, state councils, universities, and technical boards.

PM Modi launches Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh Limited.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh Limited, a new initiative aimed at strengthening the financial support system for rural women associated with Jeevika.

The Prime Minister also transferred ₹105 crore into the institution's bank account, marking the beginning of its operations. He emphasized that the scheme would particularly benefit rural women entrepreneurs by easing their access to credit.

PM Modi further linked this initiative with other flagship programmes such as Lakhpati Didi, Drone Didi, and Bank Sakhi, which aim to enhance the income and self-reliance of women across the country.

Business and Economy

SEBI introduces new framework to monitor intraday positions in index options.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new framework for monitoring intraday positions in equity index derivatives to curb risks arising from large exposures. The move is aimed at ensuring orderly trading while providing predictability and operational clarity for market participants.

As per the framework, the net intraday position in index options has been capped at ₹5,000 crore per entity, compared to the existing end-of-day limit of ₹1,500 crore. Additionally, the gross intraday position has been restricted to ₹10,000 crore, which is the same as the current end-of-day limit. These limits apply separately to both long and short positions.

The new rules will take effect from October 1, 2025.

N. Srinivasan appointed Chairman of Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited.

N. Srinivasan, promoter of India Cements, has been named the new Chairman of Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited (CSKCL), the company that owns the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings.

Along with Mr. Srinivasan, his daughter Rupa Gurunath has also been appointed as an Additional Director of CSKCL.

Sports

Asia Cup Hockey 2025: India, China, Malaysia and South Korea enter Super 4.

The Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup Hockey 2025 begins today at Rajgir, Bihar, with India, China, Malaysia, and South Korea securing their places after the conclusion of the group stage.

In this round, all four teams will face each other once, and the top two sides will advance to the final, while the other two will contest the 3rd/4th place playoff.

This edition of the Asia Cup carries added significance as it serves as a qualifying tournament for the 2026 Hockey World Cup, making every match crucial in shaping the final standings.

Pranav Venkatesh wins Fujairah Global Superstars Chess title.

World Junior Champion Pranav Venkatesh clinched the Fujairah Global Superstars Chess Tournament in the UAE. The young Indian Grandmaster sealed the title with a commanding victory over Spain's Alan Pichot in the final round.

Pranav finished with 7 points out of 9, a full point clear of his nearest rivals—Brandon Jacobson (USA), Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara (Mexico), and Amin Tabatabai (Iran)—who shared the second spot with 6 points each.

Mitchell Starc retires from T20 Internationals; ends career as Australia's second-highest wicket-taker

Australia's pace spearhead Mitchell Starc has announced his retirement from T20 international cricket, bringing an end to a stellar 13-year career in the shortest format.

Starc, who debuted in 2012 against Pakistan, played 65 T20Is and picked up 79 wickets at an economy rate of 7.74, making him Australia's second-highest wicket-taker in the format.

The left-arm quick featured in five of the six T20 World Cups, missing only the 2016 edition due to injury.