

International

Australian PM Anthony Albanese wins second term.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has been re-elected as the country's leader, becoming the first in decades to secure a second term.

With some 70.8% of the seats already counted, the ABC puts Labor on track to finish with 85 seats – far above the 76 seats needed, giving it a comfortable majority.

The Opposition Liberal National Coalition is expected to win 36 seats and the Independents stand at 10. Meanwhile, Peter Dutton, leader of the conservative Liberal party, has conceded defeat.

US approves sale of HawkEye 360 technology to India.

The United States has approved the sale of HawkEye 360 technology to India to boost the country's surveillance capabilities.

The move will enhance India's maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific region.

HawkEye 360 collects and analyses radio frequency (RF) signal location with a constellation of satellites in Low Earth Orbit. Some vessels, which 'go dark' to roam undetected in disputed areas and evade tracking, can also be detected with this advanced technology.

Singapore's long-ruling People's Action Party (PAP) secured landslide victory.

Singapore's long-ruling People's Action Party (PAP) won a landslide victory in the general elections, extending its 66-year rule.

The Election Department has announced that Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's PAP won 82 Parliamentary seats after vote counting concluded, with five additional seats won uncontested, giving them a total of 87 out of 97 seats.

The opposition Workers' Party retained its 10 seats.

The PAP's popular vote rose to 65.6 per cent, up from a near-record low of 61 per cent in 2020 polls.

Russia declares emergency in Novorossiysk.

Russia has declared a state of emergency in the port city of Novorossiysk in the Krasnodar region, claiming an attack by Ukraine that damaged apartment buildings in a residential complex.

The Governor of the Krasnodar region, Veniamin Kondratyev, said the Black Sea coast of the Krasnodar region was attacked by Kyiv, damaging three residential buildings in Novorossiysk.

US approves \$310M F-16 training and sustainment package for Ukraine.

The US has approved an F-16 fighter jet training and sustainment package worth 310 million dollars for Ukraine.

The Pentagon announced that the package includes aircraft modifications, flight training, maintenance support, spare parts, ground handling equipment, and specialized software systems.

This support package follows an earlier 266.4 million dollars F-16 sustainment agreement approved in December 2024 under the administration of Joe Biden, which provided mission planning systems and key maintenance equipment.

Important Days

World Laughter Day 2025:4th May

World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of May every year. In 2025, it falls on May 4th.

The official theme for World Laughter Day 2025 is: "Laugh for Health, Peace, and Happiness".

Obituary

Yoga practitioner Baba Sivanand passes away.

Yoga practitioner, a Padma Shri awardee, Baba Sivanand passed away in Varanasi. As per his disciples, he was 128 years old.

A resident of Kashi (Varanasi), Baba Sivanand was known for his disciplined lifestyle centred around yoga, meditation, and spiritual practice. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2022 for his exceptional contribution to society through yoga.

National

India bans Pakistani ships, imports and postal services.

India has banned the entry of Pakistani ships at Indian ports. It has also prohibited Indian ships from visiting Pakistani ports.

India also banned the direct or indirect import of all goods from Pakistan with immediate effect. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification that direct or indirect import or transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan shall be prohibited with immediate effect.

India has also suspended all postal services to and from Pakistan.

India offers \$200 million defence credit to Angola for military modernization.

India has announced a defence credit line of 200 million dollars (in Indian Rupees) to support the modernization of Angola's armed forces.

The announcement came following delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of Angola, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, in New Delhi.

ICAR developed world's first genome-edited improved varieties of rice

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has successfully developed two genome-edited rice varieties.

The first variety, named DRR Dhan 100 Kamala, has been developed using the popular high-yielding green rice Samba Mahsuri. The second variety originates from Maruteru 1010 (MTU1010), another widely cultivated rice strain in India.

The genome-edited Samba Mahsuri variety offers significant advantages: it matures 15–20 days earlier than the original and provides a 25% higher yield, producing about eight tonnes more per hectare. Additionally, each panicle of this improved variety yields 450 to 500 more grains compared to the original.

Business and Economy

Indian government terminated Krishnamurthy V Subramanian's tenure at IMF.

The Indian government has terminated Krishnamurthy V Subramanian's tenure as Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), effective April 30, 2025—six months before the scheduled end of his three-year term.

Subramanian, who previously served as India's Chief Economic Adviser from 2018 to 2021, was appointed to the IMF role in November 2022, representing India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.

SBI Q4 net slips 10% on provisions.

State Bank of India (SBI) reported a 10% year-on-year decline in net profit for the fourth quarter of FY25, amounting to ₹18,642.59 crore, compared to ₹20,698.35 crore in the same period last year.

The bank's Net Interest Income (NII) for the quarter grew 2.63% to ₹42,775 crore Year on Year (YoY).

Loan Loss provisions during the quarter grew 20.35% to ₹3,964 crore.

Gross NPA for the quarter was down 8.78% to ₹76,880 crore.

Net NPA during the quarter reduced 6.58% to ₹19,667 crore.

Sports

Indian women Lose 2-3 to Australia in fourth match of hockey tour.

The Indian women's hockey team put up a spirited fight but lost 2-3 to Australia in the fourth match of its tour at the Perth Hockey Stadium.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team is on a tour of Australia for a five-match series – two matches against Australia A, followed by three encounters against the senior Australian team. The Indian team is yet to win a match on this tour.