

International

Earthquake in Eastern Afghanistan kills over 1,400, thousands injured.

The death toll from the powerful earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan has crossed 1,400, with thousands injured as rescue operations continue. The devastating earthquake of magnitude 6 struck the eastern part of Afghanistan on Sunday, with the epicentre located 27 km northeast of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, at a depth of eight km.

Meanwhile, India has sent humanitarian aid consisting of 21 tonnes of relief materials to Afghanistan.

China unveils advanced military technology in Beijing parade.

In a historic first, China has publicly unveiled some of its most advanced military technology, including hypersonic missiles, electronic warfare systems, and unmanned combat platforms, during a massive military parade in central Beijing. The event, marking the 80th anniversary of China's victory in World War II, also featured a strong message of peace and international cooperation from President Xi Jinping, even as global tensions remain high.

Sharjah to host 18th World Congress on Inclusion in 2025.

Sharjah will host the 18th edition of Inclusion International's World Congress 2025 from September 15 to 17 at its Expo Centre. The event, being held for the first time in the MENA region, will bring together participants from more than 70 countries to discuss inclusive education, systemic reforms, advocacy, healthcare, legal rights, employment, and community participation.

National

Indian Navy's first training squadron docks in Seychelles.

Indian Navy ships INS Tir, INS Shardul, and Indian Coast Guard ship ICGS Sarathi, comprising the First Training Squadron (1TS), have arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, as part

of their long-range training deployment in the South West Indian Ocean Region. The visit will include professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, and joint training with Seychelles Defence Forces personnel.

India, Thailand armies begin joint exercise in Meghalaya.

The 14th edition of the India–Thailand joint military exercise, MAITREE-XIV, commenced with a ceremonial opening at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya. The exercise will run from September 1 to 14.

Aimed at enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding, the exercise is part of the ongoing military-to-military exchange programme between the two nations. The previous edition was held at Fort Vachirapakan in Tak Province, Thailand.

India's first indigenous 32-bit microprocessor Vikram chip, unveiled.

India has built its first space-grade computer chip for rockets, called Vikram 3201. It is the country's first indigenous 32-bit microprocessor designed to survive the extreme conditions of space launches.

The chip was designed by the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and made at the government's Semi Conductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh. It has already been tested on PSLV-C60's POEM-4 platform and was formally handed over for production use in March 2025, before being showcased at Semicon India 2025.

Unlike consumer chips, space processors prioritise radiation tolerance, deterministic behaviour, and certifiability over raw speed. Vikram 3201, built on a 180 nm CMOS process, falls in line with international practice where slightly older nodes are preferred for their radiation resilience.

Governors cannot sit over Bills endlessly, say Supreme Court judges.

Three of the five judges on the Presidential Reference Bench have orally observed, along with the States of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, that Governors cannot sit endlessly over Bills placed before them for assent.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, Justices Vikram Nath and P.S. Narasimha separately remarked that Governors could neither delay the wisdom of the legislature indefinitely nor impede the functioning of the Constitution.

Former Narcotics Control Bureau chief S.N. Pradhan to head CyberPeace Foundation.

Former Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau and the National Disaster Response Force, S.N. Pradhan, has been appointed the global Chief Executive Officer and chief mentor of the non-profit CyberPeace Foundation.

CyberPeace Foundation is a non-profit civil society initiative and think tank advancing digital trust, online safety, and cyber resilience.

Business and Economy

GST Council approves two-rate tax slab effective September 22.

The 56th meeting of the GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has approved the rationalisation of GST rates, abolishing the 12 per cent and 28 per cent slabs. The new slab structure will come into effect from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

The Council cleared a two-tier tax structure with rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, along with a new 40 per cent slab for sin and luxury goods. However, tobacco products and cigarettes will continue to attract 28 pc GST, plus compensation cess, till loans are repaid.

As part of the restructuring, 175 broad items of mass consumption, including milk, paneer, snacks, and bread, will become cheaper. Goods such as hair oil, toilet soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, tableware, and kitchenware will now fall under the 5 per cent bracket.

Around 99 per cent of items currently taxed at 12 per cent will now fall under 5 per cent.

Nearly 90 per cent of goods currently taxed at 28 per cent will shift to 18 per cent. This includes air-conditioning machines, televisions above 32 inches - with all TVs now under 18 per cent - dishwashing machines, cement, and small cars and motorcycles below 300 cc.

India, EFTA trade pact to come into force from October 1: Switzerland

The free trade agreement between India and the four European nations bloc EFTA, which will come into force from October 1, will have legally binding provisions on trade and sustainable development, Switzerland said. Under the pact, India has received an investment commitment of \$100 billion in 15 years from the grouping while allowing several products such as Swiss watches, chocolates, and cut and polished diamonds at lower or zero duties.

RBI clears reappointment of R Gandhi as Yes Bank Chairman till 2027.

Private sector lender Yes Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of former RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi as non-executive chairman of the bank. He served as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for three years from 2014 to 2017. He had been a seasoned and accomplished central banker for 37 years.

He also held the charge of Director of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology, IDRBT, Hyderabad.

Urban Company's ₹1,900 cr. IPO to open on Sept. 10.

Consumer services provider Urban Company Ltd. has fixed a price band of ₹98 to ₹103 per share for its upcoming ₹1,900 crore initial public offering (IPO). Investors can bid for one lot of 145 shares and in multiples of 145 thereafter.

Govt sets up a committee to examine tax, export clearance issues of the manufacturing sector

The Union Government has set up a committee to examine the tax and export clearance issues being faced by manufacturing units and suggest measures to further streamline the system amid high tariffs imposed by the U.S.

The Committee includes representatives from the Finance Ministry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), and the RBI.

Sports

US Open: Yuki Bhambri–Michael Venus enter Men's Doubles Semi-Finals.

India's Yuki Bhambri, paired with Michael Venus of New Zealand, stormed into the semi-finals of the US Open. The duo defeated Croatian Nikola Pietrangeli and Rajeev Ram of the United States 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 in the men's doubles quarterfinals. The Yuki-Michael duo is set to face the British pair, Neal Skupski and Joe Salisbury.

World Boxing Championships 2025 begin in Liverpool.

The World Boxing Championships, 2025, will kick off on September 4 in Liverpool, England. India will field a 20-member strong contingent at the inaugural edition of the Championship. For the first time, the Championships will be staged under the aegis of the new governing body, World Boxing, and will feature both men's and women's events together.