

International

Liu Jiakun is the winner of the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

Chinese architect Liu Jiakun has been announced as the winner of the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the highest honor in the architecture field. This prestigious award recognizes Jiakun, founder of Jiakun Architects for his ability to blend traditional Chinese elements with contemporary design and for his commitment to social equity in the built environment.

He becomes the second Chinese architect to receive the accolade, following Wang Shu (2012). Jiakun joins a distinguished list of previous laureates including Riken Yamamoto in 2024, David Chipperfield in 2023, and Francis Kéré in 2022.

U.S. Supreme Court rejects Trump bid to freeze \$2 billion in foreign aid.

A divided U.S. Supreme Court handed a legal defeat to U.S. President Donald Trump rejecting his bid to freeze some \$2 billion in foreign aid payments. The Court, in its first significant ruling on a legal challenge to the Trump administration, voted 5-4 to uphold a lower court order requiring that payments be made on aid contracts that have already been completed.

USAID is the primary organization for distributing U.S. humanitarian aid around the world with health and emergency programs in around 120 countries.

NASA, Nokia launch first mobile network on the moon.

NASA and Nokia have taken a major step in lunar exploration by deploying the first-ever mobile network on the Moon. As part of Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission, this initiative introduces the Lunar Surface Communication System (LSCS), designed to facilitate high-definition streaming, telemetry exchange, and reliable connectivity for lunar operations.

Unlike traditional satellite communications used in space, Nokia's lunar network relies on cellular technology similar to Earth's. The LSCS will enable rovers, landers, and other lunar assets to communicate in real time.

National

Cabinet clears ₹3,880 crore for livestock health programme.

The Union Cabinet has revised the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) with a total outlay of ₹3,880 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26. This includes provision of ₹75 crore to provide good quality and affordable generic veterinary medicine and incentive for sale of medicines under Pashu Aushadhi component.

LHDCP has three sub-components - Critical Animal Disease Control Programme, Establishment, and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries - Mobile Veterinary Unit and Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases. The Pashu Aushadhi is a new component added to the LHDCP scheme.

Centre launches Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat initiative

Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel launched the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj at a National Convention in New Delhi. This initiative is a part of the Ministry's International Women's Day 2025 celebrations. The primary objective of the initiative is to establish at least one Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat in each district. It will serve as a beacon for gender-sensitive and girl-friendly governance practices.

DRDO conducts high-altitude trials of Indigenous Integrated Life Support System for LCA Tejas.

The Defence Bio-Engineering and Electro Medical Laboratory DEBEL, a Bengaluru-based lab under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the Indigenous On-Board Oxygen Generating System OBOGS-based Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft.

The OBOGS-based ILSS is a cutting-edge system designed to generate and regulate breathable oxygen for pilots during flight, eliminating dependence on traditional liquid oxygen cylinder-based systems.

2025 edition of India Mobile Congress set for October .

Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia announced at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, that the 2025 edition of the India Mobile Congress, an annual event organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), will be held from October 8–11. The event brings together telecom operators, equipment manufacturers and government bodies showcasing their telecom advances.

The 2025 edition will focus on “innovations across 5G & 6G, AI, Semiconductors, Electronics Manufacturing, Quantum Computing, Cybersecurity, Satellite communications, Deep-tech, Clean-tech, Smart Mobility, Industry 4.0 and Enterprise transformation.

Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan launched to sharpen leadership acumen of women representatives.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched the “Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan” at the National Workshop of Women Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions in New Delhi. The Abhiyan is a comprehensive and targeted capacity-building initiative aimed at strengthening Women-Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions across the nation. It focuses on sharpening their leadership acumen, enhancing their decision-making capabilities, and reinforcing their role in grassroots governance.

nearly 1.4 million women across the country are associated with Panchayati Raj Institutions today.

More than 1,200 elected women representatives participated in the event, which was organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in commemoration of International Women’s Day, to be observed on the 8th of March.

Goldi Solar unveils India’s First AI-driven solar manufacturing facility.

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi, inaugurated India’s first AI-powered solar manufacturing line at Goldi Solar’s newly established plant in Kosamba, Surat, Gujarat. The AI-powered facility enhances precision, scalability, and efficiency,

redefining solar manufacturing and strengthening India’s transition toward a net-zero future.

The plant, designed to have a production capacity of 14 GW, features several groundbreaking technologies, including AI-powered high-speed stringers that enable the production of 10,000 cells per hour.

Business and Economy

RBI to inject ₹1 lakh crore in G-Secs

The Reserve Bank of India

announced open market purchase of government securities (G-Secs) for ₹1 lakh crore.

The move followed a review of current and evolving liquidity conditions. The liquidity injection will happen in two tranches: ₹50,000 crore on March 12 and the rest on March 18.

IMF cautions of systemic risks in India’s NBFC sector due to high exposure to power and infrastructure sector.

Stress in the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) may pose risk in the financial system due to their overexposure to power and infrastructure sector and interconnectedness with other markets, said IMF in a report.

The International Monetary Fund report titled “India Financial System Stability Assessment” found that 63% of the power sector loans were from the three largest Infrastructure Financing Companies, a type of an NBFC in fiscal 2024. This increased from 55% in 2019-20. Moreover, 56% of their lending was financed by market instruments and the rest only by bank borrowings in the second quarter of fiscal 2024. The dependence on bank borrowings for financing their lending nevertheless increased since fiscal 2019. State-owned NBFCs like IREDA are at a higher risk, the international institution found.

AI firm Anthropic valued at \$61.5 billion in funding round.

Anthropic, an American artificial intelligence public-benefit startup has raised \$3.5 billion in a funding round that valued the artificial intelligence startup at \$61.5 billion.

Anthropic said the capital will be put to work advancing its AI systems, expanding its computing capacity, and speeding up its international expansion.

RBI appoints Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India appointed Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director (ED) who will look after the Department of Statistics and Information Management and Financial Stability Department.

Prior to being promoted as the ED, Mr. Joshi was serving as a principal adviser in the Department of Statistics and Information Management.

Mintoak buys Digiledge to expand CBDC payments.

Indian fintech startup Mintoak has acquired Digiledge in a deal valued at around \$3.5 million, marking the first acquisition in India's central bank digital currency (CBDC) sector.

Mintoak, backed by PayPal and HDFC Bank, aims to enhance its merchant payment services by integrating Digiledge's CBDC and bill payment capabilities.

Mintoak's partner banks, including HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, and SBI, will now be able to offer a broader range of CBDC-related payment solutions.

Sports

Table Tennis legend A. Sharath Kamal announces retirement.

Indian table tennis legend A. Sharath Kamal announced that he will retire later this month, ending a career spanning more than 22 years at the top of the sport. Sharath will bid farewell,

where the WTT Star Contender event, his final tournament, will take place from March 25 to 30 in Chennai. His achievements, which include seven Commonwealth Games gold medals, two historic Asian Games bronze medals, and five Olympic appearances.

Khelo India Para Games in national capital from 20th-27th March 2025

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the Khelo India Para Games 2025 will be held in New Delhi from the 20th to the 27th of this month. Several international para-athletes will be seen in action at the upcoming Khelo India Para Games. This will be the second edition of the Khelo India Para Games. Around 1230 para-athletes will compete in six disciplines during the games.

Australia's Steve Smith retires from ODI cricket.

Australian cricket legend Steve Smith has officially announced his retirement from One-Day Internationals (ODIs), marking the end of an illustrious 14-year career in the 50-over format. He will continue to be available for Test and T20I selection. Across 170 ODIs, scoring 5800 runs at an average of 43.28 and a strike rate of 86.96, including 12 centuries and 35 half-centuries. He finished his career as the 12th-highest run-getter for Australia in ODIs.