

## International

### US President Trump signs executive order imposing sanctions on International Criminal Court

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the International Criminal Court accusing it of illegitimate and baseless actions targeting America and its close ally Israel. The measure places financial and visa restrictions on individuals and their families who assist in ICC investigations of American citizens or allies. The order Trump signed, said, the ICC has no jurisdiction over the United States or Israel, adding that the court had set a dangerous precedence with its actions against both countries.

The ICC issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu in November last year over alleged war crimes in Gaza.

### UN says, nearly 3,000 people killed after rebels seize key city in DR Congo.

Nearly 3,000 people have been killed in the city of Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, according to the United Nations, after it was captured by rebels (M23 armed group) following days of fierce fighting with the Congolese army.

DR Congo – a country of more than 100 million people – has experienced decades of violence driven by ethnic tensions and fights over access to land and mineral resources, causing one of the world's largest humanitarian crises.

### Panama pulls out of Chinese Belt and Road infrastructure program.

Panama has formally pulled out of China's massive Belt and Road infrastructure program, following pressure from the United States to reduce Beijing's influence on the Panama Canal, President Jose Raul Mulino announced. The president of Panama further stated that the country has already given the statutory notice of 90 days over its embassy to Beijing.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a strategic project of China, which seeks to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks to enhance regional integration, increase trade, and stimulate economic growth.

### Colombo hosts first Bharat Rang Mahotsav, celebrating 25 years of theatre excellence

Colombo marked a historic cultural milestone as it hosted the Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) for the first time, celebrating 25 years of the world's largest theatre festival. The inauguration took place at Tower Hall Theatre in Colombo. Organised by India's National School of Drama (NSD) and hosted by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, BRM 2025 spans 13 cities in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. The festival, themed One Expression, Supreme Creation, showcases over 200 productions from nine countries.

### Recent wildfires in Los Angeles county cause estimated losses of up to \$164 billion.

In the United States, the two most recent largest wildfires that ravaged Los Angeles county are estimated to have caused total property and capital losses of as much as 164 billion dollars. The report published recently by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) suggests total property and capital losses caused by the Palisades and Eaton fires could range between 95 billion dollars and 164 billion dollars.

### Australia passes tough anti-hate crime laws.

The Australian Parliament passed tough anti-hate crime laws, including mandatory minimum sentences for terror offences and displaying hate symbols, in a bid to tackle a recent surge in antisemitism. The laws will impose minimum jail sentences of 12 months for less serious hate crimes, such as giving a Nazi salute in public, and up to six years for those found guilty of terrorism offences.

## National

### e-NAM expands with 10 new commodities, enhancing agricultural trade opportunities

The e-NAM platform has expanded to boost agricultural trade with the addition of 10 new commodities and their tradable parameters. These commodities include dried tulsi leaves, besan, dragon fruit, and wheat flour. This initiative aims to increase the coverage of agricultural commodities and offer more opportunities for farmers and traders to benefit from the digital trading platform.

With this addition, the number of commodities on the e-NAM platform reached two hundred thirty-one.

### **Over 5.19 cr cases pending in Indian courts.**

Over 5.19 crore cases are currently pending in different courts in the country, including nearly 83 thousand cases in the Supreme Court, as of the end of last month. Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal provided this information in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, citing data from the National Judicial Data Grid. The government has initiated several measures to expedite the pending cases, including the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts. The minister further added that by the end of last year, 747 fast-track courts were operational.

### **Defence Ministry signs contracts worth ₹10,147 crore for Pinaka ammunition.**

The Union Defence Ministry signed contracts worth ₹10,147 crore for a variety of ammunition for the Army's Pinaka Multiple Rocket Launch Systems (MRLS). The ammunition also enhances the range of the Pinaka systems. Contracts were inked with Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL) for the procurement of Area Denial Munition (ADM) Type-1 and High Explosive Pre-Fragmented (HEPF)-Mk-1 (enhanced) rockets

## **Business & Economy**

### **Govt takes considerable measures to combat rising digital payment frauds.**

The Centre has said that amid the rising number of digital payment frauds, considerable measures have been taken to combat this form of cybercrime. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has detailed that in the financial year 2022-23, as many as 6,699 cases amounting to fraud of more than two hundred seventy crore rupees were recorded. The MoS informed that in the financial year 2023-24, more than twenty-nine thousand cases amounting to more than fourteen hundred and seventy crores were recorded across the country.

He said that the RBI issued Master Directions on Digital Payment Security Controls in February 2021 to combat web and mobile app threats. He said that these guidelines mandate the banks to implement a common minimum standard of security controls for various payment channels like the Internet, mobile banking, card payment, etc.

### **Sharan Hegde's 1% club becomes first finfluencer-led company to get SEBI RIA license.**

The 1% Club, a financial advisory startup founded by internet personality Sharan Hegde and Raghav Gupta has become the first finfluencer-led company in India to secure a Registered Investment Adviser (RIA) license from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The milestone follows a six-month review process that involved top compliance and legal experts, paving the way for the startup to offer personalised one-on-one financial planning services to its members, leveraging transparency, trust, and regulatory compliance.

## **Sports**

### **9th Asian Winter Games to begin in China.**

The ninth Asian Winter Games (AWG) 2025 will kick off at Harbin in China. The Games will continue until the 14th of this month. This year's Games will see the largest representation of Asian countries and regions in history and representatives from 34 countries and regions across Asia will parade during the opening ceremony.

The Indian Government has given clearance for participation of the 88-member Indian contingent which includes 59 athletes and 29 team officials.

### **ODI series : India beat England by 4 wickets.**

India Men's Cricket team registered a dominant four-wicket victory over England in the first ODI of three-match series at Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur. With the win, the Men in Blue are leading the series 1-0. Chasing a target of 249 runs, India overhauled the score, posting 251 for the loss of six wickets in 38.4 overs.